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A

NEW AND COMPLETE

HISTORY

OF THE

COUNTY OF KENT;

EMBELLISHED WITH A SERIES OF VIEWS,

From Original Drawings,

BY G. SHEPHERD, H. GASTINEAU, &c. &c.

WITH

HISTORICAL, TOPOGRAPHICAL, CRITICAL, AND BIOGRAPHICAL DELINEATIONS.

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THE

HISTORY OF THE COUNTY OF KENT,

&c. &c.

THE HUNDRED OF MILTON, OTHERWISE MIDDLETON.

The hundred of Milton, as it is generally called, but more properly Middleton, lies the next hundred northward from that of Eyhorne. It is an appendage to the manor of Milton, and was formerly styled *the court of ancient demesne*, held for the hundred of Milton; the jurisdiction of which includes the several parishes of the Isle of Shepey within its bounds, excepting Harty, which is in Faversham hundred.

It has the hundred and manor of Marden annexed, as an appendage, which has been so ranked from time immemorial.

In the pleas of the crown, taken before the justices itinerant, under Edward I., it is noted that the hundred of Middleton was the king's hundred, with that of Marden; and further, that John de Shorne and Daniel de Burgham, while bailiffs of Middleton, held pleas weekly for five days, whensoever they thought fit, throughout that hundred; in which roll mention is made of one Lucas de Gare, *Camerarius de Middleton.*

In the 25th year of the above reign, this hundred had a distinct coroner of its own, and was then farmed of the king by John de Northwood; and under Edward III., when Queen Philippa had a grant of it, the return of writs was granted to her within this district.

In the Tower records, among the clause rolls of the 1st of Richard III., the men of this hundred were exempted from all watch and ward on the sea-coasts, except in the Isle of Shepey.

Though the manor and hundred of Milton was granted for lives and terms of years at different periods, a more ample account of which will be given in the description of the manor, the fee, nevertheless, remained uninterrupted in the crown, till Charles I., in his 10th year, granted it, in fee, to Sir Edward Browne and Christopher Favell; since which, it passed, in like manner as the manor of Milton, to the Right Hon. Sophia Countess Dowager Wenman, and her sister, Mrs. Anne Herbert, and they jointly possessed this hundred and manor, with that of Marden, appendant thereto.

This hundred contains within its bounds THE PARISHES AND CHURCHES OF RAINHAM, HARTLIP, UPCHURCH, HALSTOW THE LOWER, NEWINGTON, BORDEN, TUNSTALL, BREDGAR, MILSTED, KINGSDOWNE near Sittingbourne, RODMERSHAM, BAPCHILD, TONG, MURSTON, SITTINGBOURNE, MILTON otherwise MIDDLETON, BOBBING, and IWADE; and in the Isle of Shepey, usually styled *Shepey Liberty*, the parishes and churches of MINSTER, QUEENBOROUGH, EASTCHURCH, WARDEN, LEYSDOWN, and ELMLEY; and likewise part of the parishes of BICKNOR and STOCKBURY, the churches of which are in another hundred.

This hundred is under the jurisdiction of three constables, one of whom is appointed for the liberty of the Island of Shepey.

RAINHAM, called in ancient deeds *Renham*, lies the next parish northward from Bredhurst, and the next eastward from Gillingham.

The whole of this parish is in *the division of East Kent*, which begins here; the adjoining parish of Gillingham, westward, being wholly in that of West Kent. The situation is, for the most part, low and unpleasant, and, from its contiguity and exposure to the marshes, very unhealthy; it contains upwards of 2100 acres of land, besides woods, which comprise about 540 acres. The high road from London to Dover leads through this parish, on which, at the thirty-fourth milestone from London, is the village of Rainham street, having the church, with the parsonage and vicarage, at the east end; there is also a neat

house, which belonged to Mr. Russell, of Greenwich ; and about a quarter of a mile thence, is the hamlet of Moore street.

From the high road the ground rises, southward, to a dreary barren country, among the woods, being extremely hilly, the soil, at places, chalky and much covered with flints, over which it extends until it becomes joined to Bredhurst, its southern boundary. Round the street, and northward of it, the soil changes, being more fertile, both for corn and fruit, insomuch that this parish has been famous for growing some of the best wheat in the kingdom. Near this street, on the road leading from Chatham and Gillingham to King's Ferry and the Isle of Shepey, is the hamlet of West or Lower Rainham street, on the south side of which stood the old mansion of Bloor's place, great part of which was pulled down some years ago, and the residue converted into a farm-house, though what still remains, with the garden, walls, offices, &c. evince that it was very spacious, and well suited to the hospitality of those times, as well as the rank which the founder held among the gentry of the county. About half a mile hence is Beren grave ; and at a little distance, the estate of Mackland, belonging to the charity of the Chest, at Chatham. Near the last-mentioned road are the fresh marshes ; and beyond the wall which encloses them, a quantity of salts, the northern boundary of which, and of this parish, is Otterham creek, united to the Medway at either end.

In the return of the survey made of the several places in this county, where there were any shipping boats, by order of Queen Elizabeth, in her 8th year, Rainham was said to contain eight inhabited houses, and three quays ; the common quay, Blower's quay, belonging to John Tufton, the younger, while Hasting's quay was owned by Henry Lawrence and the heirs of Jeffry Empson. There were thirteen ships and boats, from one to thirty-five tons, and twelve persons occupied in carrying from port to port.

In the reign of Henry VI., Sir John Pashley resided at Rainham, who married the widow of John Beaufitz, of the parish of Gillingham. The family of Norden also resided in this parish for some generations, one of which line, namely, John Norden, died in 1580, and lies buried in the chancel of this

church; their arms formerly adorned the windows, and still remain at each corner of his gravestone, in brass.

In the 14th of Edward II., commissioners were appointed to take a view of the borders and ditches lying on the banks of the Medway, near Rainham, which were much decayed by the fresh waters; and again, under Edward III., others were assigned for the view of those situated in Moteneye marsh, at the manor called Quene's court, and to proceed according to the law and custom of the realm.

The paramount manor of Milton claims over this parish, subordinate to which is the manor of

MERE, otherwise MERE'S COURT, which lies in the *borough of Mere*, in the southern part of this parish, adjoining Bredhurst, and was, in very early times, part of the possessions of a family which gave name to this district, as well as another estate contiguous, formerly called Merethorne, but now generally denominated Maresbarrow, corruptly for Mere's borough.

Peter de Mere and Walter and Geoffry de Meredale were owners of these and other estates in this parish, as early as the reign of King John. However, previous to that of Edward I., the manor of Mere, with Merethorne otherwise Meresborough, had become the property of Roger de Leyborne, whose son, Sir William, became possessed of it in the 2d of Edward I., on the death of his mother, who held it *in capite*, together with the manor of Mere, by the service of walking *principal lardner* at the coronation of the king. His granddaughter, Juliana, carried this manor and estate in marriage successively to her three husbands, and leaving no heirs, they escheated to the crown, where Meresborough seems to have continued till it was purchased and settled on the dean and canons of St. Stephen's chapel, Westminster, in pursuance of the religious bequests made by the will of Edward III. This manor so continued till the reign of Edward VI., when this free chapel was dissolved, among others, and the lands and possessions surrendered to the king, who, in his 3d year, granted the manor of Mere court, with Meresborough, lately in the possession of Sir Christopher Hales, deceased, to Sir Thomas Cheney, treasurer of the household, whose son and heir, Henry Cheney, esq. of Todington, in Bedfordshire, with Jane, his wife, alienated these pre-

mises, held *in capite*, in the 12th year of that reign, by the description of the manors of Mere court, otherwise Mere's court, Merethorne, and Bradhurst, with their appurtenances, to Richard Thornhill, grocer and citizen of London.

After the above period, Sir Henry Cheney, then lord Cheney, of Todington, granted and made over to him all liberties, franchises, loyalties, and assize of bread and wine, ale, green wax, and all other privileges within the above manors, which he had ever possessed, or had in any shape a right to; which liberties were claimed by Richard Thornhill, esq., when judgment was given for them in his behalf by the barons of the Exchequer, on a trial had in Michaelmas term, in the 17th year of that reign.

From him they descended, in like manner as Bredhurst, down to Charles Thornhill, esq., who, in the reign of Charles II., alienated *the manor of Mere court*, with that of Bredhurst, (for Meresborough appears to have been sold elsewhere,) to Sir John Banks, bart., whose daughter and coheir, Elizabeth, then married to Heneage Finch, second son of Heneage earl of Nottingham, entitled her husband to the same; in whose descendants, earls of Aylesford, this estate continued, down to the Right Hon. Heneage earl of Aylesford, who afterwards possessed the same.

MERETHORNE however, also called *Mereborough*, and now generally Maresbarrow, was alienated by Charles Thornhill, esq. in the reign of Charles II., to John Tufton, earl of Thanet, whose descendant, the Hon. Sackville Tufton, afterwards possessed this manor.

SILHAM, or *Sileham court*, as it is usually called, is also a manor in the southern part of this parish, of which Walter Auburie died possessed in the 1st of Edward I. After that period, it passed into the possession of Peter de Meredale, in right of Agnes, his wife, by whom he had two sons, William and Roger, who possessed it jointly, in gavelkind, in the reign of Edward II. It subsequently passed to one Donet, which family increased its possessions in this parish, by the purchase of the estate of Roger de Reynham, at the beginning of the reign of Edward III. It descended at length down to James Donet, who died in 1409, holding the manor *in capite*. He lies buried in the high chancel of this church, in one of the windows of

which were formerly his arms, *Argent, three pair of barnacles, gules.* On his death, without issue male, his sole daughter and heir, Margaret, carried this manor in marriage to John St. Leger, of Ulcombe, whose descendant, Sir Anthony, lord deputy of Ireland, in the reign of Henry VIII., alienated that part of his estate here purchased of Reynham, to Sir Thomas Cheney, treasurer of the king's household. His son, Henry Cheney, esq. of Todington, again sold them to Richard Thornhill, esq., whose descendant, Charles, in the reign of Charles II., passed them away to John Sackville, earl of Thanet; and his descendant, the Right Hon. Sackville Tufton, earl of Thanet, afterwards possessed this property.

The manor of Silham, or Sileham court, however, was sold by Sir Anthony St. Leger, to Christopher Bloor, esq., who rebuilt his seat in this parish, called

Bloor's place, in which his ancestors had resided for several generations. He procured the disgavelment of his lands, and died possessed of this manor and seat, having married the daughter of John Colepeper, esq. of Aylesford, by whom he left no male issue, when Olympia, one of his daughters and coheirs, entitled her husband, John Tufton, esq. of Hothfield, to the possession of the same. It appears, from the pedigree of this family, to have descended from ancestors whose original name was Toketon, who, from several deeds there quoted, were possessed, as early as the reign of King John, of lands lying near Meredale, and, in the reigns of Edward I. and II., of others near Sileham. They removed hence to Northiam, in Sussex, and again, under Edward VI., to Hothfield, in this county, where they have ever since remained.

John Tufton, above mentioned, continued to reside at Hothfield, and was created a baronet in 1611. His eldest son, Sir Nicholas Tufton, was first created lord Tufton, and afterwards earl of Thanet; and in his descendants, earls of Thanet, the manor of Sileham court, with Bloor's place, and other estates in this parish, continued down to the Right Hon. Sackville Tufton, earl of Thanet. There is no court held for this manor.

The manor of Queen's court, with the *farm,* called Berengrave, in this parish, were part of the possessions of the crown, and so continued till Queen Alianore, widow of Henry III., and mother of Edward I., in 1273, gave them,

together with a mill in this parish, to the master and brethren of St. Catherine's hospital, near the Tower, to hold in pure and perpetual alms, free from all secular service whatsoever; which gift was confirmed by Edward I. in his 20th year. Queen Philippa, wife of Edward III., greatly enlarged this royal hospital, which had been founded by Queen Maud, wife of Stephen, before 1148, and was afterwards augmented by the several queens of England, insomuch, that there was sufficient to maintain a master, three brethren chaplains, three sisters, ten poor women, and six poor clerks. In this state it continued in the reigns of Henry VIII. and Edward VI., having escaped the general suppression of such foundations; and, in consequence, the fee of the manor of Queen's court, with Beren grave, remained part of the possessions of this hospital. Lady Sackville was the lessee in 1653, and after her, Sir Richard Colepeper.

RAINHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sittingbourne. The church, dedicated to St. Margaret, is a handsome building, consisting of two very broad aisles, and the same number of chancels, with a high beacon tower at the west end. There was formerly some good stained glass in the windows of this church, which has long since been destroyed.

The high chancel belongs to the parsonage of Rainham, wherein lie interred several of the family of the Allen's, as well as the Norden's and Norrey's; there is also a small monument, commemorative of the latter, with the effigies of himself and wife, kneeling at a desk, whose armorial bearings are, *Argent, billettee a cross, pattee flore, sable.* On the north side of the altar is a handsome tomb of Bethersden marble, the brasses of which are wanting: on the pavement is a memorial, in brass, for John Bloor, obt. 1529; and near the latter are several others, robbed of their brasses. The north chancel belongs to the earl of Thanet, wherein are two superb monuments, one bearing the effigies of a man in military attire, seated on part of his armour, which was erected for George, the sixth son of John Tufton, earl of Thanet, A.D. 1670; the other presents the figure of a man in his parliamentary robes, to commemorate Nicholas earl of Thanet, who died in 1679. In the north aisle there is also a vault for the family of John Russell, esq. of Greenwich. Under the chancel are two large vaults, wherein are deposited

the remains of the family of the Tufton's. On the 20th of October, 1791, the steeple of this edifice was greatly damaged by a storm of thunder and lightning, which also split the wall for several feet in length.

Robert de Crevequer, founder of Leeds abbey, about the year 1137, gave to the canons there, in free and perpetual alms, all the churches of his estates, with the advowsons, among which was that of Renham, with eighteen acres of land.

The vicarage was valued in the king's books at £14 4 7, the yearly tenths being £1 8 5½. In 1640 the estimate was £70, and the communicants 100. It was subsequently valued at £200 per annum, when the number of inhabitants was the same.

In 1821 there were 164 dwellings in the parish of Rainham; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 505, females 525, making a total of 1030 souls.

HARTLIP is the next parish southeastward from Rainham, which is not so unhealthy as the latter, because, lying farther from the marshes, the noxious vapours are in some measure intercepted by the intervening hills. It contains about 1040 acres of land, besides 116 acres of wood. The London road runs along the northern side, where the soil is very gravelly; thence the ground rises to the village, situated, as well as the church, on the west side, upon high ground, surrounded by frequent orchards of apple and cherry trees, that render the view from the London road very pleasant. Notwithstanding the gravelly soil still continues, there is some fertile land; the hedgerows, throughout this and the other parts of the parish before mentioned, being filled with tall elms. Above the village the soil becomes chalky, extending over a poor and barren country, very hilly, and much covered by flints; there is also a great quantity of coppice wood interspersed throughout the district. In this part of the parish is a large tract of waste ground, called *Queen down*, which was for many years a noted warren for rabbits. In the north-east part of the parish is a good old mansion, situated in the midst of fruit-grounds, called *Paradise*, having, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, been the

property of Rowland Searle, gent., which afterwards went to a family of the name of Pitt.

William Brooke, escheater of this county in the reign of James I., resided at Hartlip. He was the eldest son of Cranmer Brooke, esq. of Ashford, grandson of Thomas, the second surviving son of John lord Cobham.

In and about this and the adjoining parishes, many lands are called by the name of Dane, as Dane field, Dane croft, and Danaway, which testifies that the nation in question must formerly have had much intercourse with these parts.

At a spot called *Lower Dane field*, belonging to Maresbarrow farm, about a mile from the church of Hartlip, was discovered, about seventy years back, the ruins of a building, the top of which was level with the surface of the ground. A quantity of the earth was moved away, under the idea of discovering hidden treasure; the eastern extremity was also cleared, being about three feet deep; which labour was continued to the west end, where it was about ten feet deep. At each end, where the walls presented part of a square, they were plastered over; whereas, in the narrow part, between, they were bare, and appeared composed of large flint-stones, laid regularly in rows. On the upper part, even with the surface of the ground, were two rows of large Roman tiles laid close together, being of a very large size, and some made with a rim at the end, to lap over the others. Great quantities of those tiles were scattered round the place, many foundations of buildings having also from time to time been discovered in different parts of the adjoining grounds.

Several bushels of wheat were found in the room at the western part of this building, which appeared to have been scorched by fire, some being turned into black ashes; there were also some tares: nothing else was discovered among the earth with which it was filled. The *manor of Milton* claims *paramount* over the whole of this parish.

Pope's hall is an estate situated in this parish, which formerly had owners of the surname of Pope, who resided at this seat till the latter end of the reign of King Henry VII., when Richard Pope alienated it to Christopher Bloor, esq. of Rainham, whose daughter and heir, Olympia, carried it in marriage to John Tufton, esq. of Hothfield; and in his descendants,

earls of Thanet, this estate continued, down to Sackville earl of Thanet.

Croft, otherwise Yauger, is an ancient mansion in this parish, formerly the patrimony of William de Elmsted, in whom it did not long remain, as, in the reign of Edward I., it had become the property of Roger de Northwood. In his descendants it remained till the reign of Henry VI., when it was conveyed by sale to one Norton, of Borden; and in the 4th of Edward IV., one part was alienated to a Champneys, as was the remainder, in the 8th of the same reign; from which name it was reconveyed to Norton, in two parts, when John Norton, in the 4th and 5th of Philip and Mary, conveyed his right therein to Gilbert Fremlin. He, in the reign of Elizabeth, sold it to John Palmer, who bore for his arms, *Sable, a fess between three lions rampant, or.* He was the eldest son of William, of Snodland, who resided at Hartlip. His son, Sir Anthony Palmer, was knighted at the coronation of James I., who left three sons, of whom, Dudley, the eldest, possessed this estate, which, in the reign of Charles I., he alienated to Sir Thomas Crew, one of the ancient family of the Crewe's, of Chester. His son, John Crew, esq. of Stene, in Northamptonshire, was, in the reign of Charles II., created lord Crew, of Stene. His eldest son, Thomas lord Crew, left two daughters his coheirs, Anne, married to Mr. Joliffe, of London; and Temperance, to Rowland Alston, esq. of Woodhall, in Bedfordshire; the latter of whom, in right of his wife, became possessed of Yauger, which his son, Sir Thomas, alienated to Arthur Jones, esq., whose only daughter and heir conveyed it in marriage, in 1780, to John Macnamara, esq., who in her right became possessed of the same.

Grayney is a manor in this parish, which is properly called Graveney, having been anciently the property of a family of that name, as Stephen de Graveney held it in the reign of Edward I., and in his descendants it continued till the period of Henry VI. It then became the property of John Maney, esq. of Biddenden, whose descendant, Sir John, of Linton, in this county, possessed it in the reign of Charles I. and was created a baronet in 1641. How this estate afterwards passed or was alienated from this family, we have not been able to ascertain,

but it devolved at length, by virtue of a mortgage, into the possession of — Barrow, esq. He left three sons, who settled at Borden, Newington, and Shorne, and devised this estate by will to his widow, who afterwards married one Jordan, and lastly Wildash. At her decease this estate was divided into moieties, one of which became the property of her only surviving son, by her first husband, and the other part to her son, by her second husband, Mr. Jordan. Mr. Barrow subsequently purchased the latter, and, in consequence, possessed the whole of this manor, which, at his death, he devised to his widow, Mrs. Barrow.

The family of Osborne was seated in this parish previous to the reign of Edward IV., their seat having been called *Hartlip place*, situated at Cruxhill, in the western part of the parish, so called from having been formerly the residence of the family of the Crux's, the descendants of which afterwards removed to Sheldwich and Milton. They bore for their arms, *Argent, on a pale, within a bordure, sable, an eagle displayed between two crosses, formee of the first:* and here the Osborne's resided for several generations. The first of this family whom we have seen recorded, is William Osborne, who was of Hartlip, and died in 1464. He was succeeded by John Osborne, his son, who departed this life in 1577, both of whom, as well as their several descendants, lie buried in the north chancel of this church, usually called *Osborne's chancel.* They bore for their arms, *2uarterly, argent and azure; in the first and fourth quarter, an ermine spot, over all a cross, or, charged with five amulets, sable.* At length it descended to John Osborne, esq. of Hartlip place, who built for his residence a large mansion about half a mile from the church, which he named *Dane house.* He afterwards removed to Maidstone, on account of a most daring robbery committed upon him while he resided at Dane house, after which it stood many years uninhabited, and was at last entirely pulled down. He died in 1683, and was succeeded by his son, Thomas Osborne, esq., whose two sons, John and Thomas, successively inherited his estates in this parish, and both dying, their two sisters became their coheirs, of whom Elizabeth was married to Richard Tylden, esq. of Milsted, and Mary, to the Rev. Mr. Milway, of Borden, the latter of whom sold her share of these estates, in which the site of *Dane house* was included, to one

Tyndale, of Gloucestershire, and of Bobbing, in this county. His descendant, William Tyndale, of North Certon, in Gloucestershire, became the owner, but *Hartlip place, Queendown warren,* and the residue of the Osborne estates in this parish, were allotted to Mr. Tylden, who had one son, the Rev. Richard Osborne, of Milsted, and three daughters, of whom Hannah married Edward Belcher, esq. of Ulcomb, Mary espoused the Rev. Thomas Bland, and the third, Philippa, died unmarried. His widow survived him, and became possessed of this estate, upon which she levied a fine, and died in 1766, devising the whole of her interest to her two daughters, Mary and Philippa. *Hartlip place* was included in that portion devised to the former, who died possessed of it in 1780, upon which, by the limitation of the will, it descended to her two younger sons, Thomas and William Bland, but the former having sold his interest to his brother William, he ultimately became possessed of the whole.

The other part of the Osborne estate devised to Mr. Philippa Tylden, which included the freehold part of Queendown, containing about seventy acres, being held of the master and brethren of St. Catharine's hospital, near the Tower, was renewed by lease in the name of the Rev. Mr. Tylden, on whose death, in 1766, his interest therein descended to his eldest son, Richard Tylden, esq. of Milsted, who became entitled to the same.

HARTLIP is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sittingbourne. The church, dedicated to St. Michael, consists of three aisles and three chancels, with a square tower at the west end.

King Henry III., in his 9th year, gave the church of *Hartlepe* to the prior of St. Andrew's, in Rochester, where it remained till the dissolution, when King Henry VIII. settled it on his newly erected dean and chapter of Rochester. In the 8th of Richard II. the church of Hartlip was valued at £13 6 8.

The parsonage was afterwards leased out by the dean and chapter, but the advowson of the vicarage they reserved in their own hands.

In 1821 there were fifty-one dwellings in the parish of Hartlip; and, at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of

inhabitants were as follow: males 160, females 140, making a total of 300 souls.

Upchurch is the next parish northward from that of Hartlip, and so named from its elevated situation.

This parish lies in a most unhealthy spot, close to the marshes, and a large extent of some hundreds of acres of salts beyond them, as far as Standgate creek, the river Medway constituting its northern boundary; the noxious vapors arising from which subject the inhabitants to continued intermittent fevers, that tend to shorten their lives. It contains about 1760 acres of land, near 100 acres of wood, and about 1200 acres of fresh and salt marshes. The face of the country is rather hilly, the land in general very thin and poor, mingled with a considerable quantity of gravel; the remainder of the soil is in some parts a black sand, and in others a stiff clay, of which latter there is but a small portion. The poorness of the soil occasions the growth of much broom and fern, with which many fields are entirely covered. The southern part of the parish has much woodland interspersed throughout, which is in general of little value, being mostly oak coppice. The soil is much adapted to the growth of the elm, with which the hedge-rows abound, but these continued rows of tall spiral trees impede the free circulation of air, and render the place much more unwholesome than it otherwise would be. The village of Upchurch, called the Street (through which the high road leads from Chatham, to Kingsferry, and the Isle of Shepey,) stands on high ground, nearly in the centre of the parish, with the church contiguous, the spire of which is accounted a sea-mark.

It seems to have been of much more consequence, as well for its craft in shipping, as the number of its inhabitants, both of which were some years back greatly diminished from what they had been in former times, being also in a state of great poverty. At the western boundary of the parish there is a quay called Attrum, or Otterham quay, with a wharf for the landing and shipping of corn, and the produce of the neighbouring woods; the creek, called by the same name, flowing by it from the river Medway. In the 17th of Queen Elizabeth there was a common arrivage place at Upchurch, called Karter's hythe. In the southern part of the parish is a hamlet, called Halywell, near which much

woodland abounds, belonging to the earl of Thanet. On the eastern side, situated in the valley, close to the Sheere way to Newington, is the manor of Gore, now only a mean farm-house. In the northern part, the land, which is very wet, stretches along a narrow space between the marshes, at the end of which is another hamlet called Ham. There is no commission of sewers for the repair of the marshes in this or the adjoining parishes, but the sewers and walls which defend them from the tides, are kept in order by the respective owners, at no inconsiderable expense. At some distance from the uplands, across the marshes, is one of great notoriety, called Stayhills, containing 500 acres, formerly belonging to the Leyborne's, and given with the manor of Gore court, as above mentioned, to the abbey of St. Mary Grace, Tower hill. After the suppression of that house, Henry VIII. granted it to Sir Thomas Wyatt to hold *in capite*. Sir Warham St. Leger afterwards possessed it, whose daughter carried it in marriage to Thomas Diggs, esq., whence it acquired the name of Diggs marsh, which it bore for a short time only, having resumed its former appellation. This estate, however, from its exposed situation, and the force of the tides, which, from the walls being neglected, at length broke through their boundaries, and overflowed it, has now become main sea, and the whole a tract of salts, covered by every springtide. The *paramount manor of Milton* claims over this whole parish, subordinate to which is

THE MANOR OF GORE, otherwise UPCHURCH, formerly called *De la Gare*, held of the above manor by a yearly suit and service. It is situated in a vale in the southeastern part of this parish, over which, subordinate to that of Milton, it claims in a great measure.

It was in very early times in the possession of a family which thence derived its name, Lucas de la Gare having been returned a knight of the shire for this county, prior to which period, however, it had become the property of the Leyborne's. Roger de Leyborne held it in the 51st of Henry III., at which time he obtained a grant to hold in fee all his hereditaments and tenements in *gavelkind*, in Rainham, Upchurch, and Hereclop, of the king by knight's service.

After the above period this manor descended to Juliana de Leyborne, whose husbands successively enjoyed this property,

but she surviving them all, and dying without any kindred whatsoever, this manor and estate in Upchurch became escheated to the crown, where it remained till the king, in his 58th year, granted it to St. Mary Grace's, on Tower hill, founded by him, which was confirmed to the abbey in pure and perpetual alms, for ever, by King Richard II. in his 12th and 22d years.

It remained part of the possessions of the monastery till the dissolution under Henry VIII., when, being surrendered to the king, he soon after granted this manor to Christopher Hales, who died in the 33d year of that reign, leaving three daughters his coheirs, of whom Margaret, the second, married first, —West; secondly, Dodman; and thirdly, William Horden, gent. of the Weald of Kent; when she inherited this manor, and entitled her three husbands successively to the possession of the same. At length it was alienated by William Horden, in the 9th of Elizabeth, to Mr. Richard Stanley, who passed it by sale to Thomas Wardegar, or Wardacre, whose grandson William sold it under James I. to Sir Nicholas Tufton, earl of Thanet, in whose descendants, earls of Thanet, this manor continued down to the Right Hon. Sackville Tufton, earl of Thanet.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

Horsham is a reputed manor in this parish, situated at a small distance westward from the church. It seems formerly to have been possessed by a family of its own name, one of whom, Stephen de Horsham, possessed it in the reign of Edward III. How long it continued in that line we have not found, but it was subsequently in the possession of Archbishop Chichele who, in the reign of Henry VI., settled it on the college of All Souls, in Oxford, then founded by him, mostly out of the estates of the suppressed alien priories, of which probably this was a part, and continued in the possession of this college. There is no court held for this manor.

The lessee of the estate, in the reign of Elizabeth, was Sir Cheney Colepeper, who alienated his interest therein to Clement Milway, who passed the lease away to Mr. William Harding, of London, whose son in 1715, Mr. John Harding, alienated it to Mr. Joseph Hasted, gent., of Chatham; and his grandson, Edward Hasted, esq. of Canterbury, afterwards became possessed of the lease; and was succeeded by Mr. ThomasWilliams, gent. of Dartford.

The manor of Otterham, situated in the western part of this parish, near the hamlet of Otterham, or Ottram, as it is now called, had formerly possessors of the same name, who became extinct here before the reign of Richard II. John Peche, citizen of London, died possessed of this manor of Otterham, in Upchurch, in the 4th year of that reign, which he held in right of Mary his wife, during her life, the reversion belonging to Thomas de Athurton, when it was held of the king as of his manor of Milton, by divers services according to the custom of *gavelkind*. How it passed afterwards we have not found, but in the reign of Elizabeth it was in the possession of Thomas Butts, gent. It later times it passed by sale into the possession of Mr. Thomas Best, of Chatham, whose grandson, Thomas Best, esq. of Chilston, died possessed of it in 1793, and gave it by will to his nephew, George Best, esq. of Chilston, who subsequently possessed the manor.

HAM, otherwise WEST COURT, is a manor in the northern part of this parish, situated in the hamlet of Ham, which, with an estate called Sharpnash, otherwise Sharpness, belonged to the abbey of Boxley, as early as the reign of King John; while, under that prince and Edward III., the abbot had a grant of *free warren* on their manor and estate here, which continued part of the possessions of that monastery till the dissolution under Henry VIII., when, being surrendered to the king, he granted it to Thomas Greene, gent., to hold *in capite*, by knights service. He was the natural son of Sir John Norton, of Northwood, in this county, for which reason he was frequently styled in deeds of that time, Norton, otherwise Greene. He died in the 6th of Edward VI. possessed of this manor of West court, and the manors of Ham and Sharpnash. He left two sons, Norton and Robert, of whom Norton, the eldest, left an only daughter and heir, Mary, wife of Sir Mark Ives, of Essex; and Robert, the second son, was of Bobbing. They bore for their arms, *Gules, a cross patent ermine, within a bordure of the second*. Norton Greene, the eldest son of William, as before mentioned, inherited these manors, which he alienated to Thomas Aldersey, gent. of Bredgar, in whose descendants the manor of Ham continued till it was alienated to Thomas Hous, who went it away to Thomas Skip, after which it went to his grandson, Thomas Skip Bucknal, who in 1792 took the

name of Dyot. What became of the portion called Sharpness we cannot ascertain, excepting that it was the marsh called New marsh, from one Mr. Elfets stopping up the breach, and repairing the walls; it has, however, been again swallowed up by the sea. It lies between Bayford and Burntwick marshes, and contains about 500 acres of land.

UPCHURCH is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sittingbourne. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a large handsome building, consisting of three broad aisles, and two chancels, the pews taking up only a small portion of the centre aisle.

In the north chancel are several gravestones robbed of their brasses, and in the north windows of the same, good remains of painted glass, for the most part well preserved. Underneath is a vault, which, by the circular staircase whereby the visitant descends, seems to have been used only as a charnel-house, having many bones laid up therein. The steeple, at the west end of the church, is very remarkable, being a tower, whereon is placed a square part of a spire for about ten feet, and upon that an octagon for the remaining or upper portion, to the point of the spire at the summit.

There is an old monument in the wall of the north chancel, adorned with acorns and oak leaves, which Weever says was set up over the grave of one Woodokes, who was entombed there.

The church of Upchurch anciently belonged to the abbey of Lisle Dieu, in Normandy, founded by Reginald de Pavely in 1187, who, having lands in this county, may probably have given this church for the better support of his new foundation.

The church appears to have been appropriated very early to the abbey in question, for in 1369, being the 44th of Edward III., a commission was issued by Archbishop Wittlesege, for the augmentation of the portion of the perpetual vicar of Uppechirche to the above-mentioned abbey, for some time appropriated to five marks.

In the 8th of King Richard II. this church was valued at £23 6 8, then belonging to the abbey of Lisle Dieu. It was afterwards estimated at £11 in the king's books, the yearly tenths being £1 2s. In the reign of Elizabeth there were 139

communicants, while in 1640 it was valued at £60, the communicants being forty in number.

The vicar of Upchurch holds of Milton manor one acre of land at Culvers valley, in Upchurch.

In 1821, there were sixty-seven dwellings in the parish of Upchurch; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 218, females 196, making a total of 414 souls.

Halstow lies the next parish eastward from *Upchurch*, written in ancient deeds, *Halegestow*, and is usually called *Lower Halstow*, from its low situation, and also to distinguish it from the parish of *High Halstow*, in the hundred of Hoo.

It is a very obscure and unfrequented parish, though the road from Chatham to the king's ferry leads through the lower part, across a branch of the creek called *the Stray*, which at high water is hardly passable with safety. The little streamlet that rises southward near Newington church, runs hither to the corn-mill belonging to All Souls college, situated on another branch of this creek, up to which the tide flows likewise, the mill being also turned by it. Below these the two branches acquire the name of Halstow creek, when soon after joining, about three miles below, that of Standgate creek, it flows into the river Medway, at some distance from Sheerness. At the lower end of *Standgate creek* all vessels arriving from foreign countries, where the plague is known to rage, are obliged by order of the privy council, to perform *quarantine* for a limited time, in order to air the cargoes.

Halstow Creek, higher up, becomes so shallow as to be used only by the small craft belonging to the dredger men, who reside here, and make up the principal part of the inhabitants of this parish. It is navigable in both branches as high up as the Stray, on the one side, and the bridge built over the other, just above the church, where there is a wharf belonging to All Souls college, used by the neighbouring country people. There are two small hamlets in the lower part, near the creek, the one built round a green, thence called Halstow green, and the other at a small distance, called Lower street. This part of the parish lies on a level open to the adjoining marshes, which render it

most unpleasant, and at the same time unhealthy, the appearance of which the inhabitants bear in their countenances; indeed, it is so enveloped among creeks, marshes, and salts, extending as far as the eye can reach, that it seems a boundary beyond which the traveller dreads to hazard his future safety.

The whole of this parish, excepting towards the marshes, has a woody appearance, the shaves and hedge-rows being very broad round the fields. It contains about 1200 acres of land, the soil in general being a stiff clay, some few parts gravel, and others a black unfertile sand, with much broom and brakes, or fern, upon it. The clay lands have been much improved by spreading them over with lime, conveyed at a vast expense from Hartlip, a distance of three or four miles. Near the Stray there are some fertile meadows and orchards; the lands, in general, let at a high rent per acre, much of which belong to All Souls college, as part of their manor farm of Horsham, in Upchurch. Towards the eastern side of the parish the hill rises pretty high, over much of which the adjoining manor of Norwood, in Milton, claims. In the north-east part is Basser farm, the whole of which is pasture, and some portion so fertile as to be good for fatting land for beasts.

The paramount manor of Milton claims over this parish, subordinate to which is

The manor of Berkesone, commonly called Basser, situated in the north-east part of this parish. It was given to the monks of the priory of Christ church in Canterbury, for providing a light before the shrine of St. Anselm, which gift was confirmed by Henry II., who added thereto £15 of rental in this place, as did also Reginald de Clere, certain lands bounding those of Roger de Wardun and William de Northwoode.

King Edward II., in his 10th year, granted and confirmed to the prior and convent of Christ church, *free warren* in all their demesne lands in Berkesore, held in the time of his grandfather, Henry III.

In this state the manor continued till the dissolution under Henry VIII., when, being surrendered to the king, he settled it on his new erected dean and chapter of Canterbury, part of whose possessions it has remained.

The family of Darell, of Calehill, has for many generations

been lessee of this manor, under the dean and chapter. Sir Robert Darell held it in the 17th of James I., and in his descendants it continued down to Henry Darell, esq. of Calehill. A court-baron is regularly held for this manor.

HALSTOW is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sittingbourne. The church, which stands close to the creek, is dedicated to St. Margaret, and consists of three small aisles and one chancel, with a low pointed steeple, having nothing to render it remarkable. The church of Halstow was part of the ancient possessions of the priory of Christ church, in Canterbury, as appears by an instrument of Archbishop Baldwin, who came to the see of Canterbury in 1184, and at the presentation of the prior and convent, granted to his beloved son, John de London, nephew of the blessed martyr Thomas, the church of St. Margaret of Halegestowa, in perpetual alms, excepting the pension of one mark, which the said John was bound to pay to the monks above mentioned, twice in each year.

Henry III., in his 19th year, granted to the prior and convent of Christ church, the privileges of a fair at the church of Halswesto.

Upon the dissolution, under Henry VIII., this church, with its lands and possessions, was surrendered to the king, who settled it on his new erected dean and chapter of Canterbury, part of whose possessions it has remained.

The vicarage was a discharged living in the king's books, of the yearly value of £40, the tenths being 16s. 2½d. In 1642 it was estimated at £60 per annum, the communicants amounting to eighty-two.

In 1821 there were thirty-five dwellings in the parish of Halstow; and, at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 111, females 109, making a total of 220 souls.

The next parish southward from Halstow is NEWINGTON, written in Domesday *Newetone;* having certainly derived its name from being raised on the site of some more ancient town, built perhaps in the time of the Romans, of whom there are many *vestigia* in and about this place. It has the addition of

next Sittingbourne, to distinguish it from a parish of the same name *next Hythe.*

THE PARISH OF NEWINGTON lies for the most part on a flat plain, extending nearly two miles from east to west, at the edges of which it is surrounded by a range of high hills, mostly covered with woods, that extend as far eastward within its boundaries as the high road leading from Key street to Detling. The parish is rather pleasant, though extremely unhealthy, being exposed to the noxious vapors arising from the large tract of marshes, the wind from which blows hither uninterruptedly through the vale, as well as from the unwholesomeness of the water drawn from the wells for culinary uses, which make it far from being a desirable situation to dwell in. In consequence of these drawbacks, it is thin of inhabitants, especially of the better sort; in the centre of the plain, on a gentle rise, stands the village of Newington street, containing some ancient and ill-built houses, being encircled by orchards of apples and cherries. In the street, opposite to the lane leading to Stockbury, is the old manor-house of Lucies, inhabited, says Hasted, by a shopkeeper; and in another part, an old timber building, in a dilapidated condition, belonging to the estate of Sir Beversham Filmer, bart. A market was formerly held in this parish, though long since disused. At a small distance northward is the vicarage, and a little farther on the church and parsonage; close to the churchyard is the manor-house of Tracies, and near it a spring, that produces a fresh stream, and runs thence northward, having a small breadth of swampy meadow or marsh land on either side, till it empties itself into the creek at Halstow.

The high road from London to Canterbury and Dover runs across this parish, and through Newington street; at a small distance southward from which, in the road to Stockbury, is the manor-house of Cranbrooke; and about a mile farther on, the hamlet of Chesley street, otherwise Checheley street, as appears by the will of Robert Bereforth, dated in the reign of Edward IV., who lies interred in this church, being styled of Checheley street, who therein devised his principal tenement, called Frognal, and another named Patreches, in this parish, to his three daughters and coheirs.

This parish contains about 1300 acres of land, exclusive of 200 acres of wood, great part of which, especially in the environs

of the street, were formerly planted with orchards of apples and cherries, but those falling to decay, and the high price of hops yielding a more advantageous return, many of them were converted to the growth of that plant. Indeed, so kindly proved the soil for hops, that in one particular instance, according to Hasted, an acre of ground produced thirty-four hundred-weight of hops; but these lands wearing out, and hops being reduced in price, orchards were replanted in Newington, to which these grounds afford a good nursery.

The soil of this parish, on the plain and towards Chesley, is very rich and fertile, consisting, in general, of a kindly loam; near and on the hills it is mostly a stiff clay, and, to the northward of the street, becomes a sand. It is poor upon the hills, and much covered with broom and furze, which tract, thence called Broomdown, belongs generally to All Soul's college, as part of their manor of Horsham, in Upchurch. On the continued chain of hills from the north-east to the south-east boundaries of this parish, there are large tracts of woodland, wherein are great quantities of chesnut stubs, no doubt the indigenous growth of these tracts, which unite with others of the same sort reaching for several miles; those in this parish and its neighbourhood, from the great plenty of the above wood abounding thereon, being known by the name of the *Chesnut wood.* A large circuit within the bounds of this and the adjoining parishes, reaching as far as the turnpike road, that extends from Key street to Detling, belongs to the earl of Aylesford, the rents, generally speaking, being high.

The Roman road having crossed the river Medway at Chatham, is still visible on the summit of Chatham hill, the edge on the north side of the great road thence to Rainham, standing thereon; from which place it runs on the southern side of the road, till within a very small distance of Newington street, when it falls in with the great road, and does not appear again till having passed a mile and a half beyond Key street. The name of Newington, as before observed, implies that the place was built on or in lieu of some more ancient town or village, the names of places in and about it being plainly of Roman origin, a convincing proof that the nation alluded to had frequent dealings in these parts. Keycol hill, at the thirty-eighth milestone, seems to be the same as *Caii Collis,* or *Caius*

Julius Cæsar's hill; Key street beyond it, *Caii Stratum,* or *Caius's street;* while Standard hill, about half a mile southward of Newington street, appears to have derived its name from some military standard having been placed there in very early times.

On Keycol hill, above mentioned, a small distance from the high road, is a field wherein quantities of Roman urns and vessels have continually been turned up by the plough, wherefore the whole being scattered over by the broken remains, it thence acquired the name of Crockfield. The soil is chiefly a sand, excepting towards the north-west part, where it consists of a wet and stiff clay.

The situation of this field is on an eminence higher than the surrounding grounds, commanding a most extensive view on every side. A little to the south-west, in the adjoining field, is a large mound of earth thrown up, having a very broad and deep pass on the south and west sides, from which there seems to be a breastwork of earth, extending in a line, westward, about forty rods; and thence again, in the same manner, northward; constituting the south and western boundaries of the two fields next below Crockfield, above mentioned.

The greater portion of the northern sides of these fields, and the eastern side of Crockfield, adjoin the woods, wherein appear many remains of trenches and breastworks thrown up, but the coppice is so very thick, that there is no possibility of tracing their form or extent, to enable the observer to give a correct description of them. Earthen vessels have been found lying in all directions and positions, as well sidewise as inverted, and frequently without containing any ashes or bones; which circumstance has induced many to conclude that this spot was used for fabricating Roman pottery, and not as a burial-place.

Notwithstanding the above surmise, several of our learned antiquaries, among whom are Somner, Burton, Archbishop Stillingfleet, Batteley, and Dr. Thorpe, seem inclined to fix the Roman station, called in the second Iter of Antoninus, *Durolevum,* as having been at or near this place. Indeed, most of the copies of the above writer make the distance from the last station, *Durobrovis,* Rochester, to *Durolevum,* thirteen or sixteen miles, which would place it nearer to Green street or Judde hill, a little on the western side of Ospringe; but the Peutin-

gerian tables make it only seven, with which Mr. Somner seems to acquiesce; and it unquestionably answers tolerably well to this place. If the distance in miles be correct, Newington, no doubt, has every plea in its favor to conclude the above station having been there; but supposing the number sixteen should be preferred, the same argument may hold good in reference to Judde hill; every other place is merely conjectural, unsupported either by a knowledge of the country, or any remains of Roman antiquity ever discovered, either before or since.

The urns and vessels found here were first noticed in print by the learned Meric Casaubon, prebendary of Canterbury, whom Burston styles the *incomparable*, for his virtues and learning, and who, in his notes on the translation of the Emperor Marcus Antoninus's Meditations, has published an account of the antiquities found at Newington, which contains many curious particulars relating to the custom of burial, too copious to be wholly inserted in this work.

Among other observations, however, he remarks that, not only the greater number of these urns were in themselves remarkable, but the manner of their being disposed in the ground very singular, as was observed by those gentlemen present on their being disinterred. For instance, where one great urn was found, several lesser vessels presented themselves, many within the large one, and others round about it, each covered either with a proper cover of the same earth as the pots, or else of coarser materials, but very closely stopped up. Hence the writer alluded to infers that, the custom seems to have been to appoint one large urn to contain the bones and ashes of the whole of one household or kindred; consequently, as often as any of them died, they had recourse to the common urn, which was necessarily uncovered for that purpose; thus far surmises Casaubon.

The great number of urns, and the fragments of others found at this place from time to time, have been dispersed among the cabinets of the curious throughout this county, many of whom, from a fondness for antiquarian research, have dug here for that purpose. The late earl of Winchelsea, for instance, dug several times for such vestiges with success, having had a numerous collection. Among others, one of the larger size, disinterred here, and found capable of containing twenty-four pints, fell into the hands of Dr. Batteley, who says, it was dug up among

many urns here, being a vessel intended to contain wine, pitched within, a custom usually adopted with vessels intended for such use. It had four handles, whereby it might be raised as occasion required, appendages altogether useless for a sepulchral urn, as a religious dread attended their removal. The custom was to extinguish the funeral pile with wine, wash the bones, sprinkle the sepulchres during their funeral sacrifices, and pour it out as an offering to the funeral gods.

Another of these urns, which held nearly a bushel, came into the possession of John Godfrey, esq. of Norton court; and a third fell into the hands of Mr. Filmer Southouse; both of which are engraved in the folio edition of Hasted's Kent.

THE PARAMOUNT MANOR OF MILTON claims over great part of this parish.

In the time of Edward the Confessor, this place was held of Queen Editha, wife of that prince, by one Sidgar, with whom, most probably, it continued till after the death of Harold, when William of Normandy, having obtained the crown of England, seized on this estate, and bestowed it on Albert, his chaplain; in whose possession it remained at the taking of the general survey of Domesday.

Some time after the above period, THE MANOR OF NEWINGTON became part of the possessions of a *priory* founded here, the nuns of which held it, of the king, of his manor of Middleton; but the prioress having been strangled in her bed, the king seized on this manor, and kept it in his own hands, removing the nuns to the Isle of Shepey. Henry II., by the persuasions of Archbishop Beckett, placed in their room seven priests, as secular canons, to whom he gave the whole of the manor; and, as a further increase of their maintenance, twenty-eight hundred-weight of cheese, from his manor of Middleton.

One of these canons having been murdered, four of his brethren were found guilty of the crime, and the other two acquitted. These last, with the king's licence, gave their portions or shares of the manor of Newington to the abbot of St. Augustine's, near Canterbury; and the other five parts being seized into the hands of the king, remained there till he granted them to Richard de Lucy, chief justice, by which means this manor became divided: two parts remaining with the abbot of St. Augustine, as one manor; and the other five parts with the

family of Lucy, as another separate manor, which, from their retaining possession of the same, acquired the name of *Newington Lucies.*

Several disputes arising between the abbot and Almeric de Lucy, concerning their possessions here, they were afterwards settled by the award of Sir Stephen de Penchester, who decreed that the latter should give, in exchange, to the abbot and convent, among other annual profits, the several rents, reliefs, suits, services, and all other customs, of the tenements and holdings within the hundreds of Middleton, Marden, and Eyhorne, to hold in free, pure, and perpetual alms. In consideration of which, he decreed that the abbot and convent should release, in exchange, the two parts of rents and cheese belonging to this manor, to Almeric de Lucy and his heirs, for ever.

The manor of Newington remained part of the possessions of the monastery of St. Augustine till its final dissolution, in the 30th of Henry VIII., when that great abbey was surrendered to the king. It so remained part of the royal revenue till the death of Charles I., upon which, the Parliament, under Cromwell, vested it in trustees, to be sold for the exigencies of the state. Soon after, a survey having been taken of this manor, it appeared that there were quit-rents due to the lords of the same from the freeholders within the borough or town of Newington, the borough of Otham, the parish of Clapham, the borough of Bedmanton in Wormshill, the borough of Wyarton in Boughton Monchensie, the parish of West Farleigh, as also the borough of Minster and Laysdown, in the Isle of Shepey, all severally holding in *free socage* tenure; and from Mr. Aldersey, of the parish of Bredgate, and Mr. John Allen, of Stockbury, in the same manner; and that there was a court-baron and court-leet, fines and amerciaments of courts, &c., all which quit-rents, together with the profits of the courts, *coibs annes,* were worth, in the whole, £16 18 9½.

Soon after, this manor was sold by the state to Mr. John Browne, with whom it remained till the restoration of Charles II., when it again became part of the revenues of the crown, and so continued till the 9th of King William III., 1697, when that prince having raised Sir John Somers to the office of lord high chancellor, and also to the title of Lord Somers baron Evesham, in Worcestershire, made him a grant, for the support

of those honours and dignities, of the feefarm rents of this, among other manors. In 1700 he resigned the seals, but Queen Anne, in her 8th year, appointed him president of the council, when growing infirm, he gradually declined in health until his death, in 1716. Lord Somers bore for his arms, *Vert, a fess dancette, ermine.* He died unmarried, leaving the greater part of his estates, by will, to his nephew, James Cocks, esq. of Worcestershire, son and heir of Mary, his eldest sister.

James Cocks, esq. before mentioned, becoming thus possessed of these feefarm rents, died in 1750, leaving one son, James Cocks, esq., who was killed during the unfortunate expedition against St. Cas, in France, in 1759. He died under age, and unmarried, when these rents devolved on his father's younger brother, John Cocks, esq. of Castleditch, in Herefordshire, which estate he possessed in right of his wife. Charles Cocks, esq., his eldest son, succeeded him in the feefarm rents of the manor of Newington, who was created a baronet in 1772, and by letters patent, 1784, Lord Somers baron Evesham. He married, first, Elizabeth, sister of Edward lord Eliot, by whom he had one son, John Somers; and secondly, Anne, sister of Reginald Pole Carew, esq., by whom he had three sons and one daughter. Lord Somers bore for his arms, *Sable, a chevron between three stags attires, fixed to the scalps, argent*, quartered with those of Somers, before mentioned.

It has been already mentioned in the account of the manor of Newington, that in the reign of Henry II. five parts out of the seven had escheated to the crown, and were given by the king to Richard de Lucy, his chief justice, and being subsequently considered a separate manor, acquired from him and his descendants the name of Newington Lucies, which it retained.

He was a man who stood high in the estimation of the king, as well on account of his prudence and just distribution of the laws, as for his piety, being not only chief justice, but the king's lieutenant of the realm during his absence, and constable of the Tower of London and castle of Windsor. Among other acts of piety, as they were then esteemed, he founded and endowed the abbey of Lesnes, at Erith, and having taken the habit of a monk, died there, in the 26th year of that reign.

After the above period, according to the account given in the register of St. Augustine's monastery, the manor of Lucies

descended to Godfrey de Lucy, bishop of Winchester, at whose death, in 1204, it passed, in equal moieties, to Roesie, or Royce de Dover and Maud de Lucy, his sisters, the latter of whom gave her part to her son, by her second husband, Richard de Ripariis, or Rivers, whose descendants afterwards possessed it. The former gave hers, comprehending the manor itself, to her kinsman, Geoffry de Lucy, each holding their respective parts of the manor of Milton.

What kindred Geoffry de Lucy was to Royce de Dover, we cannot find, but it appears that he died possessed of this manor, and was succeeded by his son, Amery de Lucy, who was with King Richard I. at the seige of Ascalon, in Palestine; and, in reward for some signal service performed in the holy wars, had accorded the *cross crosslets* to his paternal coat, which before was only *three fishes lucii*, or pike fish, in allusion to their name. These arms of the Lucy's were formerly painted in the windows of this church, *Gules, semee of crosslets, three Lucies hauriant, or;* and again, *Lucy*, the same coat, *without the semee of cross crosslets*, being their original bearing. The first-mentioned arms are also remaining on the roof of the cloisters of Canterbury cathedral, as they were likewise in the windows of Goodnestone church, in Wingham. Geoffry de Lucy had a grant of *free warren* for his lands in Newington, in the 6th of Edward III.; in the 20th of which reign he died. Sir Walter de Lucy had a confirmation of that charter in the 27th of Henry VI., in which year he died possessed of the property, leaving one son, William, and two daughters, Alianore, married to Thomas Hopton; and Maud, to Thomas Vaux, esq. of Northamptonshire.

Sir William Lucy, the son, possessed this manor on the death of his father, and died; upon which, the estate became divided into moieties, one vested in Elizabeth Corbet, widow of Sir Robert, only daughter and heir of Alianore, wife of Thomas Hopton, esq. before mentioned. The other moiety was in the possession of Sir William Vaux, son and heir of Thomas Vaux, esq., by Maud, the other sister and coheir of Sir William Lucy, above mentioned.

Lady Elizabeth Corbet, in the 8th of Edward IV., married John Tiptoft, earl of Worcester, who being a firm friend to the house of York, was, on the restoration of Henry VI., in the 31st year of that reign, beheaded on Tower hill. He left a son,

who died in the reign of Richard III., when Elizabeth, widow of John earl of Worcester, after his death, married Sir William Stanley, of Holt castle, knight of the Garter, and second son of Thomas lord Stanley, who, though he was, as well as his brother, instrumental in placing the crown on the head of Henry VII., yet, under pretence of his having engaged in the conspiracy of Perkin Warbeck, he was, in the 10th year of that reign, beheaded, leaving his widow surviving, by whom he had no issue. She died in the 14th year of that reign, possessed of a moiety of the manor of Newington Lucies, held of the king by knight's service.

Upon her death, her moiety of this manor devolved to Sir Nicholas Vaux, grandson of Thomas, by Maud, the other daughter and coheir of Sir William Lucy, who possessing the other moiety, became owner of the entire manor of Newington Lucies. He bore for his arms, *Chequy, argent and gules on a chevron, azure three roses, vert.*

Having been a great supporter of the house of Lancaster, he received many marks of favor from Henry VII., and was, by Henry VIII., in his 15th year, created Lord Vaux baron of Harrowden, in Northamptonshire. His eldest son, Thomas lord Vaux, conveyed this manor to trustees, who passed it by sale to Sir Roger Cholmeley, sergeant at law, and recorder of London. He left two daughters coheirs, Elizabeth, married to Leonard Beckwith, of Selby, in Yorkshire; and Frances, to George Hervey, and secondly to Christopher Kenn, of Somersetshire.

The latter became possessed of this manor in right of his wife, and with her, levied a fine; soon after which, they passed it away to one Sead, from which name it was sold, in the reign of James I., to an Osborne; and thence again to James Pagitt, esq. of Northamptonshire. His grandson, Justinian Pagitt, esq. of Gray's Inn, married Catherine, one of the daughters of Dr. Lewin, and sister of Sir Justinian Lewin, of Otterden, who bore for his arms, *Sable, a cross, engrailed argent, in the dexter quarter, an escalop of the second.* He, together with Thomas Bedford, gent. of Doctor's Commons, in the reign of Charles II., alienated the estate, by the name of the manor of Newington, otherwise Newington Lucies, to Roger Jacson, gent. of St. Martin's in the Fields, who died in 1691, leaving it by will to

his brother, George Jacson, M.D. of Derby. He devised it in like manner to his son, George Jacson, of Saffron Walden, in Essex, by whom it was alienated, in 1712, to Mr. Edward Pemberton, of London. His two sons, Mr. John Pemberton, and Henry, fellow of the Royal Society, and professor of physic in Gresham college, became successively entitled to this estate; but, both dying unmarried, the latter by will, in 1791, devised it to Mr. Henry Mills, of Rotherhithe, who had married his niece and heir at law.

There has not been any court held for this manor within memory. The manor pound was still standing till within some years back.

There is a borough in this parish, called *the borough of Lucies*, extending over this manor, the borsholder of which is annually chosen at the court of the paramount manor of Milton.

FROGNAL, or more properly *Frogenhall*, is an estate in this parish, lying about a mile southeastward from the manor of Lucies, of which it was probably once accounted a part, and appears to have been given by Richard de Lucy, about the reign of Henry III., to William de Frogenhall, whose ancestors were seated at Frogenhall, in Tenham.

He gave it this name, and transmitted the possession of the same to his descendants, one of whom, Richard Frogenhall, died possessed of the estate in the reign of Edward III., from whom it descended down to Thomas Frogenhall, who died under Henry IV., without issue male. From him the property passed by Elizabeth, one of his two daughters and coheirs, in marriage, to John Northwood, of Northwood, in this county, which family ending in two daughters, Joan, the youngest, carried the estate in marriage to Sir John Norton, who, in the reign of Henry VIII., conveyed it to Thomas Lynacre, priest and physician to that monarch, who was one of the most learned of the profession in England, or perhaps in Europe, and esteemed the most accomplished scholar of his age, more especially for his knowledge of the two learned languages. He was born in the city of Canterbury, in 1460, and descended from the Lynacre's, of Lynacre hall, in Derbyshire. He died possessed of the property in 1524, and was buried in St. Paul's cathedral, before the rood of the north door, where a monument was, some years after, erected to his memory, by Doctor Caius. By his will, he

devised this estate, with others in the neighbourhood, to the founding and endowing three physical lectures, to be called *Lynacre's lectures*, two of which were to be held in the University of Oxford, and one in that of Cambridge. Those in the former were, after some years, limited to Merton college, by the survivor of his trustees; and Frognal, as well as Tracies, another estate in this parish, were both also settled, in 1549, on that college, for the support and maintenance of the said lectures, for the performance of which trust, the warden and fellows still continue to own the inheritance of these estates.

John Trafford, gent. was lessee of Frognals and Tracies in 1649, and sold his interest therein to Nicholas Hurlestone, gent. of Redriff, who died in 1665; the rental to the college amounted to about £28 per annum.

Sevenoke was formerly accounted a manor, though even the name of it has long since fallen into oblivion. It was, however, certainly situated within the bounds of this parish, being mentioned as such in several ancient deeds.

This manor, as appeared by an old court-roll, in the reigns of of Edward III. and Richard II., was in the possession of the family of the Beaufitz's, which possessed estates in the neighbouring parish of Gillingham. It so continued down to John Beaufitz, who died in the 12th of Henry VI., and by one of whose daughters and coheirs, Joan, it went in marriage to Robert Arnold, of Sussex, whose descendant, William Arnold, of Rochester, in the reign of Henry VIII., appears to have passed it away to Thomas Knight. His son, of the same name, was proprietor of the property at the latter end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, whose descendant alienated it, under James I., to one Goldsmith, as he did to a Barrow; whose descendant having mortgaged the estate to Mr. Alston, of London, he, in the reign of Charles I., conveyed his interest therein to Mr. Lesle, of London. He afterwards gained possession of it under that title, and his heirs, though frequently interrupted by suits at law, still continued to enjoy the rents and profits, but the transfer of their right herein was, from time to time, so secretly managed, and the very name of the estate so carefully concealed from every inquiry, that we have not, after the most industrious research, been able to find out either the situation of this obsolete manor, or the owners of it, since those above mentioned.

Tracies is an estate in this parish, situated almost adjoining the south-west corner of the churchyard. It was formerly accounted a manor, though it has for many years lost the reputation of ranking as such. In very early times this estate was in the possession of persons of the name of Tracy, whence, as before observed, it acquired that appellation, but if the family bore any kindred to those of Devonshire and Gloucestershire, we cannot ascertain, though the armorial bearings of those of Newington strongly resembled the shield borne by the Tracy's, of Gloucestershire. Philipott says, that the Tracy's, of Newington, bore *Argent, two bends between nine escalop gules;* and those of Gloucestershire, *Or, two bars, gules in the chief point, an escalop sable;* the difference of the colours, and the number of escalops, being only a distinction, the latter, perhaps, having been the younger branch of the family. The above-mentioned arms of Tracy were originally those of the elder branch, barons of Sudely, who bore, *Or, two bends gules;* to which William, the younger brother of Ralph lord Sudely, surnamed Tracy, as above mentioned, added the *escalop*, by way of distinction.

John de Tracy was possessed of Tracies, in Newington, in the reigns of Henry III. and Edward I., and in the 26th year of the latter, Margery, late wife of John de Tracy, recovered, against Sir John de Northwood, the elder, certain lands and rents in this parish, among which, those of Tracy's were, in all likelihood, included, to which he had laid claim.

In the 28th of Edward III., Thomas, son of James Tracy, died possessed of this manor, with its appurtenances in Newington, by the service of finding, together with the manor of Lucy, one man and one horse, with a sack and a pack, viz. each by the moiety of the said service, for the conveyance of the king's kitchen utensils, (which, we suppose, meant the furniture of the king's scullery,) as far as Wales, during the wars there, as often as they should occur.

Soon afterwards, this family became extinct here, though it appears to have existed elsewhere in the county, as the name of Tress or Tresse still remaining, we may, with great probability, conjecture it to be a corruption, by length of time, from that of Tracy. If such be the fact, it is not unlikely that the Tresse's settled for many years at Town Malling; while Ofham might

be a branch of the Tracy's, of Tracies, in Newington, before mentioned; and the same coat of arms having been confirmed by Sir William Segar, garter at arms, to Mr. Francis Tresse, gent., that circumstance further coroborates the supposition.

This manor afterwards devolved to the possession of the family of the Savage's, since it appears, by the escheat rolls, that Sir Arnold Savage, of Bobbing, in this county, died possessed of the property in the 49th of Edward III., holding it by the same service.

From the above period it had the same owners as the manor of Bobbing, till it passed into the hands of Lewis Clifford, esq., sheriff under Henry VII., who alienated this manor by sale, at the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII., to Thomas Lynacre, who died possessed of the same, and bequeathed it, in 1524, together with Frognale, for the endowment of physical lectures, as before mentioned.

Ayington is a manor in Newington, which has always had the same owners as that of Bobbing, and became the property of William Tyndale, esq. of North Corney, in Gloucestershire.

The manor of Wornedale, otherwise *Borden*, lying in the southern part of this parish, as well as in Stockbury and Borden, had formerly possessors of the name of Wornedale, for Richard de Wornedale owned it in the reign of Edward III., and left one son, Thomas, and a daughter, Maud, who, on her brother's death, unmarried, became his heir.

In later times it was possessed by the family of Eve. Henry Eve, of Edward's, in Linsted, settled it, in 1675, on his eldest son, Henry, on his marriage with Dorothy, sister of James Ady, esq. of Barham; and their son, Henry, sold it to Sir John Banks, bart. of Aylesford, one of whose daughters and coheirs, Elizabeth, marrying Heneage Finch, son of the earl of Nottingham, he became in her right, on the partition of her father's estates, entitled to the property, and was afterwards created earl of Aylesford. His son, Heneage, second earl of Aylesford, becoming possessed of this manor on the death of his father, alienated it, in 1721, to his next brother, the Hon. John Finch, who married the daughter and heir of John Savile, esq. of Methley hall, in Yorkshire, who having represented the town of Maidstone in several successive Parliaments, died in 1740, possessed of this manor; in which he was succeeded by his only son, Savile

Finch, esq., who died in 1788, when he was succeeded by his heirs.

Cranbrooke is a manor situated at a small distance southward from Newington street, near Chesley street and Stockbury. It was formerly part of the possessions of Sir William Brooke, knight of the Bath, son of George Brooke, third son of William lord Cobham. He died about 1668, leaving four daughters his coheirs, of whom Hill, the eldest, married Sir William Boothby, bart.; Pembroke espoused one Mathew Tomlinson, esq.; Margaret was united to Sir John Denham; and Frances, to Sir Thomas Whitmore, K.B.

Soon after, Sir John Denham and Margaret, his wife, died, and her share in this manor descended to her three sisters and their husbands.

It was subsequently sold to Sir John Fagg, bart., of Weston, in Sussex, who died possessed of it in 1715, as did also his son, in 1736, leaving issue one son, Robert, and four daughters; one of whom married Gawen Nash, esq. of Petworth, in Sussex; while the other, in second marriage, became the wife of Sir Charles Mathews Goring, bart. of that county. Sir Robert Fagg, bart. succeeded his father in this manor, but dying in 1740, it became the property of his sisters, of whom, Elizabeth, entitled her husband, Sir Charles Mathews, to the possession of the same. Their, son, Charles Goring, esq., sold it to Edward Austen, esq. of Rolling.

Keycole is an estate in this parish, lying on the high road, about a mile eastward of Newington street, the mansion standing at the foot of the hill, close to the edge of the woods, which became noted for the Roman remains found in the vicinity. It formerly belonged to Sir John Garrard, knight and baronet, and was for many years afterwards possessed by the family of the Westbrooke's, of Forest hall, in Essex.

A branch of the family of the Diggs's, of Barham, in this county, was for several generations settled in this parish, to which Odomarus Diggs, younger son of John Diggs, of Barham, by Juliana, his wife, sister and heir of James Horne, removed, being possessed of much land here, and in the neighbouring parishes. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, this estate was in the possession of Christopher Diggs, gent. of Barham.

The family of Holbrooke was possessed of lands in Newington,

one of whom, George Holbrooke, resided here in the reign of Elizabeth, and his descendant, Francis, lies interred in this church. In the visitation of this county, A.D. 1619, in their pedigree, the arms were *Azure, a cross or, fretty of the field, between four mullets pierced of the first.* But Edmondson, in his Heraldry, says, they bore *a chevron between ten cross crosslets;* which is corroborated by the gravestone over Francis Holbrooke, before mentioned, wherein are the effigies, in brass, of himself and his two wives, with ten children behind the first wife, and three in rear of the second. On one shield of arms, *On a chevron, a lion's head erased, between ten cross crosslets;* on another, quarterly first and fourth, the same arms as above mentioned; second and third, *On a fess, three plates between three bears' heads, erased and muzzled.*

John Cobham, otherwise Brooke, third son of George lord Cobham, and brother of Sir William Brooke, knight of the Garter and lord Cobham, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, owned much land in this parish, and dying in 1594, was buried under a monument, in the high chancel of the church. He married Anne, daughter and heir of a Cobb, and widow of Sir John Norton; she died in 1580, and was interred near her second husband.

NEWINGTON is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury, and *deanery* of Sittingbourne. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a handsome building, consisting of three aisles and two chancels, with a square beacon tower at the west end. On the north side of the high chancel is the lower part of a square tower, which reaches no higher than the roofing of the church, where it has a flat covering. There was formerly some good painted glass in the windows of this edifice, and among others, the arms of the Leyborne's, *Azure, six lions rampant, three, two, and one, argent;* those also of the Northwood's, of Lucy, as well with the *crosslets*, as without them; the shield of the Burwash's; those of the Diggs's, *impaling* Monin's; also of the Norton's, *impaling* Northwood; of the Beresford's; the Diggs's; the Horne's; the arms of the Cinque Ports; those of the see of Canterbury; of Archbishops Becket and Warham; of the Holbrooke's; and of the Brookes's.

In the south chancel are memorials for the families of the Diggs's, the Holbrooke's, the Norton's, and the Cobham's.

Against the north wall of this chancel is a monument for Joseph Hasted, gent. of Chatham, obt. 1732, possessed of a good estate in this parish; and in a vault beneath this chancel are the remains of their only son and heir, Edward Hasted, esq. of Hawley, near Dartford, obt. 1740; of Anne, his only daughter; and of George Hasted, gent., obt. 1787, third son of the editor of the History of the County of Kent.

The church of Newington was given, in the 25th of Henry II., A.D. 1178, to the abbey of Westwood, otherwise Lesnes, in Erith, founded by Richard de Lucy; which gift was confirmed, among other possessions of that monastery, by King John, in the 7th year of his reign.

The vicarage was valued in the king's books at £14 per annum, the yearly tenths being £1 8.; it was afterwards of the clear yearly certified value of £72, the communicants being 236. In 1640 the estimate was £70, when the communicants were 205.

In 1821 there were 103 dwellings in the parish of Newington; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 323, females 306, making a total of 629 souls.

BORDEN is the next parish eastward from Newington, the name of which appears to have been derived from the Saxon words *Burg*, and *dena*, signifying a mansion or town among the woods.

THIS PARISH lies nearly midway between Newington and Sittingbourne, and contains about 1550 acres of land, whereof 200 are wood. The high London road runs along the north side, whence the ground rises, southward, for about a mile, leaving the house of Cryals at about half that distance, to the village of Borden, through which there is very little thoroughfare. It is plainly seen, from the high road, encircled by orchards of fruit-trees, with the church and Borden hall standing within it; and a little eastward, is the vicarage, a neat dwelling. The land about the village, and northward of the same, is very fertile, being mostly a hazelly mould; the plantations of fruit, though numerous, are not in such plenty as formerly, for being worn out, no new trees were planted in their room, wherefore several lands have been converted into hop grounds. This part of the parish,

though it may certainly be deemed pleasant, yet the water from the wells not being good, the district is not thought healthy. Southward of the village the ground still rises, and grows hilly, the land being poor and covered with flint-stones; however, the chalky soil renders the water at this part more wholesome. About half a mile southward from the village is the house of Sutton Barne; and at a small distance eastward, Wrens, now called Rains farm, and a small hamlet, called Heart's Delight. On the opposite side from Sutton Barne is the hamlet of Wood, formerly denominated Hode street, situated on elevated ground; eastward from which is a long tract of woodland, wherein there is great plenty of chesnut stubs, whence this tract is usually known by the name of the Chesnut woods. They extend down the side of the hill, to the Detling road and the western boundary of the parish.

In 1695, Dr. Plot, when sinking a cellar at Sutton Barne, discovered several Roman bricks, with their edges upwards, much like those previously turned up at the ancient *Roman Sullonicæ*, near Ellestre, in Middlesex; and near Hode street, about the same time, was found a very ancient British coin.

In the fields southward of the village, the stones assume a globular form, where there are numbers, of a different magnitude; but the largest was ploughed up at Sutton Barne, by Dr. Plot's tenant, being exactly globular, and as big as the largest cannon-ball.

In 1676, Dr. Thomas Taylor found, in Fridwood, in this parish, belonging to his uncle, Dr. Plot, *an oak*, which bore leaves speckled with white; a similar one, Mr. Evelyn informs us, in his discourse on forest trees, from Dr. Childrey, was found in Lanhadron park, in Cornwall.

The jurisdiction of the paramount manor of Milton claims over this parish; subordinate to which is THE MANOR OF SUTTON, otherwise Sutton Barne, as it is corruptly now called, its ancient name having been *Sutton Baron*, which addition was undoubtedly derived from the court-baron of the manor held for this district. It is situated about a mile southward of the church and village of Borden, and, in the reign of Richard II., was in the possession of Angelus Christopher, who, with Margaret, his wife, passed it away, in the 17th year of that reign, to Henry Vanner, citizen of London, who paid them 100 marks of

silver, for the purchase of the property. He sold it, the same year, to John Wotton, clerk, master of the college of All Saints, in Maidstone, who reserving an annual rent of £10 from the same, for the term of his life, conveyed it, in the 10th of Henry IV., to William Bereford, by whom it was alienated, in the 19th of Henry VI., to Mr. John Grangeman, of this parish. His son, Nicholas, of that name, passed it away to Stephen and John Norton, one of whose descendants, Alexander Norton, by will, under Philip and Mary, devised his estates here to John Coty, and Alice, his wife; Thomas Plot and his wife; Thomas and Alexander Pettenden; Norton Greene; Thomas and Edward Norton, and their heirs, who being much at variance concerning the distribution of this property, it was divided according to the judgment of Ambrose Gilberd and Roger Manwood.

But the manor of Sutton Barne being extremely difficult to divide among so many, they finally agreed to pass it away to William Cromer, esq. and John Dryland; the former of whom, in the reign of Elizabeth, sold it, together with a wood called Fridd wood, in this parish, to Mr. Robert Plot, of Borden, one of the sons of Mr. Alexander Plot, of Stockbury, in which parish his ancestors had been settled in the reign of Edward IV., having borne for their arms, *Vert, three quartre-foils, argent, each charged with a lion's head, erased sable.* His great grandson, of the same name, resided here, and made considerable additions to this seat.

Dr. Plot was born here in 1641, and became a most learned antiquary and excellent natural historian, whereof his accounts of Oxfordshire and Staffordshire are existing testimonies. Having been educated at Oxford, he commenced LL.D., and was a fellow, and afterwards secretary of the Royal Society, historiographer to James II., Mowbray herald extraordinary, and lastly register of the court of Honour. He died in 1696, at Sutton Barne, and was buried in the church of Borden, where a handsome monument was erected to his memory.

Dr. Plot left two sons, Robert and Ralph, of Newington, the eldest inherited this manor, and at his death, gave it by will to Mr. John Palmer, who had married his only daughter, Rebecca. He survived her, and at his death, devised it to his second wife and Mr. John Lucas, of Milton, whose respective heirs, about the year 1767, joined in the sale of the property to Abraham

Chambers, esq. of London, who for some time resided at Sutton Barne, till he removed to Tonstall. He died in 1782, leaving by his wife four sons and one daughter, Maria Emily, who afterwards became jointly entitled to this manor. They, after some years' possession, made a division of the same, when this manor became the property of the eldest son, Samuel Chambers, esq. of Tonstall, who married one of the daughters of the Hon. Philip Roper, who subsequently owned this manor. A court-baron is held here.

CRIOLS, otherwise Kyriells, with an appendage to the same, called *Payles*, the very name of which has been long since forgotten, was a manor here, in early times possessed by the eminent family of the Criol's, from which it assumed the same.

Bertram de Criol died possessed of the estate in the 23d of Edward I., A.D. 1294, whose son, John de Criol, dying in the 34th year of that reign, his sister, married to Sir Richard de Rokesle, became his heir, and entitled her husband to this manor.

He left by her two daughters, his coheirs, of whom, Agnes, the eldest, married Thomas de Poynings, who in her right possessed the same; and in his name and descendants it continued down to Sir Edward Poynings, of Dover castle, who died possessed of the property in the 14th of Henry VIII., not only without legitimate issue, though he had had several natural children, but without any collateral kindred, who could lay claim to his estates, so that this manor, among others, became escheated to the crown.

Henry VIII. then granted this manor to Sir Thomas Wyatt, who reconveyed it to the king, in exchange for other lands; after which, it seems to have remained vested in the crown till the year after the attainder of Sir Thomas Wyatt, his son, when Queen Mary granted it to his widow, to hold of her, as of her manor of Greenwich, by knight's service, and not *in capite*. This grant seems only to have been for the term of her life, and that of her son, George Wyatt, who was restored in blood in the 13th of Queen Elizabeth, during which time the reversion was granted by King James, in his 16th year, to Thomas Hooker, esq. and John Spencer, gent., who joining in a fine levied for that purpose, settled it on the heirs of George Wyatt, esq. above mentioned. He died possessed of it in 1624, when Francis Wyatt,

esq. of Boxley abbey, his eldest son and heir, succeeded to the possession of this estate. He was afterwards knighted, and joining with Lady Margaret, his wife, conveyed it by sale to Mr. Isaac Seward, gent.; from which name it went into that of the Baker's, where it remained till carried in marriage by Jane Baker to James Brewer, of West Farleigh, who died in 1724. He left an only daughter and heir, Jane, who joined with her second husband, John Shrimpton, in the conveyance of this property, about the year 1750, to Mr. Robert Wollet, of Sheerness, who died in 1760, and his infant daughter, Sarah, afterwards marrying Mr. Thomas March, entitled him to the same. He rebuilt this seat, and resided there, who died in 1797, leaving one son, Mr. Thomas March, who subsequently possessed this estate.

Rosiers is a small manor in this parish, anciently the inheritance of a family of that name, which continued owners of the same till the reign of Henry VIII., about which period they were extinct here, when it became the property of one Woolgate, whose seat was at Woolgate, now called Wilgate green, in Throwley, where they resided for many generations. At length it became the property of Mr. Ralph Woolgate, who died possessed of it in 1642, leaving an only daughter and heir, who, marrying Mr. William Gennery, entitled him to the fee of this manor, with other estates in the parish. After the above period it was sold to the Grove's of Tunstall, one of whom, John Grove, esq. of Tunstall, died possessed of it in 1755, leaving by Catherine, his wife, daughter of Mr. Pearce, of Charing, two sons, Pearce and Richard, and a daughter Anne. He devised this manor to his second son, Richard Grove, esq. of the Temple, London, and of St. John's college, Cambridge, who, dying unmarried in 1792, devised it, among the rest of his estates, to William Jemmet, gent. of Ashford, and W. Marshall, of London, who joined in the sale of the same to W. Wise, gent. of this parish, who possessed this manor, with that of *Vigo*, otherwise *Gorts*, adjoining.

There was anciently a family which took its name from the possessions in this parish. *Philip de Borden* is mentioned in the chartulary of the abbey of St. Radigund, as having given half a seam of peas yearly, from his manor of Borden, to that abbey; and Osbert de Borden, as recorded in a charter of

Henry III., and another of Henry IV., as having given pasture for sixty sheep to the monastery of St. Sexburg, in the isle of Shepey.

There is a HAMLET in this parish called *Wood street*, but formerly *Hoade*, or *Oade street*, the yoke of which, in 1653, was held by William Genery, already mentioned.

The family of the Allen's was of some note in Borden, and resided at Hoad or Oade street. John Allen lived here in the beginning of the reign of Elizabeth, and then held, among other premises in this parish, the yoke of Boxfield. His descendant, John Allen, gent. of Oade street, died in 1679, and was buried in this church. He bore for his arms, *Or, a chevron between three bloodhounds, passant sable, collared of the first;* which coat was granted to Christopher Allen, by Sir William Segar, bart. The Allen's of Rochester, descended of the same stock, bore, *party per fess, a pale engrailed, and three bloodhounds passant, collared and counterchanged.*

A younger branch of the family of the Forster's, of Eveleigh, in Shropshire, was settled at Borden in the reign of James I., Thomas Forster then residing here; but that family has long been extinct.

Thomas Seagar held in this parish, in 1653, the *yoke of Corbett*, containing a house called *Bansies*, and other lands in this parish once belonging to Thomas Readar. The name of Seagar remained here for a considerable period, one of the descendants having owned a house in this parish, called *Borden hall*, or *Borden court*, belonging to the rectory, of which some further account will be given.

The family of Napleton, which was possessed of good estates in many parishes of this county, resided here for some generations, but is now extinct.

There is an estate here called WRENS, otherwise *Rains farm*, which in 1664 was held of Tunstall manor, by Richard, son of Christopher Allen, from which name it passed to that of Mr. Butler Lacy, whose daughters afterwards possessed the same.

BORDEN is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sittingbourne. The church, dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul, is a handsome building, consisting of three aisles and three chancels, with a square tower at the west end. It is built chiefly of flints, but

as a mark of its antiquity, has a Roman brick or two interspersed among them, the mortar being composed of cockle shells, while it is very remarkable, that in this steeple is a chimney, which appears coeval with the foundation of the structure. The door-case, on the western side of the steeple, is of Saxon architecture, with zigzag ornaments, as is also that on the opposite, or inner side, but of much larger dimensions, the whole being kept exceedingly neat and clean. In the high chancel is a brass plate, and the effigies of William Fordinall, vicar, obiit A.D. 1490. Several of the family of the Plot's are interred in the south chancel, and among others in this church are monuments for the Seagar's, the Barrow's, the Napleton's, and the Allen's.

The church of Borden was part of the possessions of the priory of Leeds, to which it was appropriated before the 8th of Richard II. In that situation it continued at the dissolution, in the 31st of Henry VIII., when it was surrendered to the king.

The vicarage of Borden was valued in the king's books at £8 10s. the yearly tenths being seventeen shillings, and it was subsequently estimated at £67 14s. Sir John Norton, and Alice his wife, gave an annuity of forty shillings, to be paid yearly, out of the parsonage, to the vicar of Borden, and his successors.

In 1578 there were 160 communicants, and in 1640 it was valued at £80, the communicants being 207.

Part of the *portion of tithes*, already adverted to in the account of the parish of Stockbury, called *Ambry Tanton*, extend into this parish.

In 1821, there were seventy-nine dwellings in the parish of Borden; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 298, females 352, making a total of 650 souls.

TUNSTALL lies the next parish eastward from Borden, usually called by the common people, *Dunstall*, a name by which it is not unfrequently described in ancient deeds and writings, being very expressive of its situation, *dun*, or *dune*, in the Saxon language, signifying a hill, and *stealie*, a place. Indeed, this appears to have been its original name, and the former only inserted by mistake in Domesday record, as the Norman

scribes frequently mistook the pronunciation of their Saxon informers.

This parish adjoins Sittingbourne northward, whence towards the south it rises to high ground among the hills, and to a chalky barren country, covered with flints; the southern and eastern boundaries extending along the woods, those in the latter being still called from the former owners, Cromer woods. It is in compass about five miles, and contains near 900 acres of land, whereof about 140 are wood. The village, with the church and parsonage, stands nearly in the centre of the parish, and close to the same Tunstall house, which, though not large, has an appearance of great respectability. At no great distance from the church stood the unfinished mansion of the Cromer's, erected at the beginning of the reign of James I., the materials having been purchased by Sir Robert Viner, and used in the building of his house in Lombard street, subsequently converted into the old General Post-office. Nothing were left but the foundations and vaulted cellars, afterwards known by the name of the ruins, which for many years became the rendezvous of thieves and beggars, who at length proved so great a nuisance to the neighbourhood, that these vaults were blown up, to prevent their becoming the future resort of such vagabonds. At the east end of Tunstall green stands the house built for the son of Sir John Hales, during his minority, at the latter end of the reign of Charles I., who afterwards resided there, but the family subsequently removed to St. Stephen's, when, being left uninhabited for many years, in the time of the late Sir John Hales, it fell almost to ruins, but was subsequently repaired and let.

About half a mile southward is Grove end, the habitation of the Cromer's, now only a farm-house, but where the manor court of Tunstall is still kept; and a mile southeastward is Mr. Chambers's seat at Pislock, situated in a romantic country, almost surrounded by woods. In the lower part of the parish, near Sittingbourne, is Gore court, the house of which was rebuilt in a superb style by Mr. Harpur, and not far westward is Upton manor. Nearly the whole of this parish, and more especially the lower part, must be deemed unhealthy, both as to air and water, notwithstanding which, the number of inhabitants in the space of the last two centuries and a quarter, has been nearly doubled, as in 1557 the number of householders was

only sixteen, and the parishioners sixty; since which it appears they have so greatly increased, that in 1757 there were twenty householders, and 170 parishioners.

In 1738 several hundred broad pieces of gold were dug up in a small wood near the ruins before mentioned. They were casually discovered by a boy, but the person who gained possession of them not being able to keep the secret, was afterwards compelled to surrender 624 of those pieces to the crown, though Sir John Hales claimed the whole, not only as lord of the manor, but from their having been hidden there by his ancestor during the civil war, which fact was remembered by a person then living, together with a large quantity of jewels, but the latter were searched for without success.

In the time of Edward the Confessor, Tunstall was in the possession of one Osward, a Saxon, who probably continued owner of the estate until the great change of property made in this kingdom by the Conqueror, who gave the same to Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in the record of Domesday. Upon the disgrace of that prelate, the king having seized his lands, Hugo de Port, who had before held the manor of Tunstall of the bishop, became immediate tenant to the king for the same as his supreme lord.

Of this family, as lords paramount, it was held in the reign of Henry II. by Manasser Arsic, who, in the 12th year of that prince possessed one knight's fee of the old feoffment of John, grandson of Hugh de Port. His grandson, John Arsic, married Margaret, daughter of Richard de Vernon, and died in the 7th of King John, leaving Robert de Arsic, his brother, heir, who alienated this manor to Hubert de Burgh, earl of Kent, and lord chief justiciary of England, a man as eminent as he was unfortunate, and who tasted the vicissitudes of life more frequently than any other person perhaps within the compass of our English annals. During his continuance in the king's favor, in the 12th of Henry III., he obtained a confirmation from that monarch of this manor, among others, which he had purchased for himself, and Margaret his wife, sister of the king of Scotland.

After having for sixteen years undergone a variety of sufferings, and being quite worn out with troubles, Hubert de Burgh was at length permitted to enjoy those possessions in peace

which the king had left him. He, however, survived this calm but a few years, and died at Bansted, in Surrey, in the 27th of the above reign, A.D. 1240, when he was interred in the church of the Friars Preachers, commonly called the Black Friars, in Holborne, to which convent he had been a munificent benefactor.

He left two sons, John and Hubert, and two daughters, one of whom, Margaret, married Richard de Clare, earl of Gloucester. After his death, Margaret his widow possessed this manor in dower, and died in the 44th of Henry III., when her son, John de Burgo, became entitled to the same, who afterwards obtained a charter of *free warren* for this manor, among others.

He did not enjoy the title of earl of Kent, which seems to have so much disgusted him that he attached himself to the confederated barons, for which he was pardoned by the general pacification entered into at Kenilworth. He left a son and heir, John, who became possessed of this manor, and died in the 8th of Edward I., A.D. 1279, leaving three daughters his coheirs, of whom Margaret married Stephen de Penchester, and entitled her husband to the possession of the same.

He was warden of the Cinque Ports, and constable of Dover castle, who, during the same year, became possessed of Tunstall, and claimed and was allowed all the usual privileges of a manor for that estate. He resided both at Allington and Penshurst, and, dying in the 31st of that reign, left his wife Margerie surviving, who married Robert de Orreby, clerk, and died in the 2d of Edward II. By the latter marriage she left one son, notwithstanding which, Joan, wife of Henry de Cobeham, of Rundale, and Alice, married to John de Columbers, her two daughters and coheirs by her first husband, Sir Stephen de Penchester, inherited this manor.

Alice de Columbers died about the 7th of Edward III. possessed of one moiety of this manor, leaving two sons, Sir Philip de Columbers, and Stephen; but it appears that some time before her death she passed away her moiety to Sir Henry de Cobeham, possessor of the other half, who thus claimed the entire fee. He died in the reign of Edward II., leaving one son, Stephen de Cobeham, of Rundall; and in the 7th of Edward III. Stephen de Cobeham, of Dunstalle, claimed in his

manor of Tunstall, tumbrel assize of bread and ale, and *free warren* in all his demesne lands within the same, as appears by the pleas of the crown for that year.

His son John appears to have alienated this manor to Sir Walter Manny, who, in the 20th of Edward III., paid aid for it as one knight's fee. Sir Walter Manny was born an alien, and lord of the town of that name, in the diocese of Cambray, who rose to great honours and preferments, and, on account of his military achievements, bore for his arms, *Or, three chevronels sable,* as they were painted in one of the windows of this church.

He died in the 46th year of the above reign, and was buried in the monastery of the Carthusians, of which he had laid the foundation. His death was much lamented by the king and the nation in general, and his obsequies performed with great solemnity; King Edward, and all his children, with the great prelates and barons of the realm, being present on that occasion.

He left by Margaret Marshal, countess of Norfolk, and lady of Segrave, as she then styled herself, an only daughter Anne, wife of John de Hastings, earl of Pembroke, who possessed this manor in right of his wife, and, having previously gained great reputation for his valour in France, was subsequently constituted lieutenant of Aquitaine. However, having been unfortunately taken prisoner by the Spaniards, at the siege of Rochelle, he was detained in Spain for some years, where he is supposed to have been poisoned, as, on his release, he fell sick on his way home, and dying before he reached Calais, in the 49th of Edward III., was conveyed to England, and buried in the choir of the Friars Preachers, at Hereford. He was the first subject who bore for his arms two coats quarterly, viz. first *Hastings,* and secondly *Valence.* His son bore four coats quarterly, viz. first *Brotherton,* secondly *Hastings,* thirdly *Valence,* and fourth as the first.

He was succeeded in this manor by John, his only son, afterwards killed at a tournament at Woodstock, under Richard II., in the seventeenth year of his age, being a youth possessed of a noble and generous disposition, whose death was much lamented by the court

He had some years previous, although so young, married

Philippa, daughter of Edmund Mortimer, earl of March, by whom he left no issue, upon which Reginald lord Grey, of Ruthin, was found to be his next of kin, and, at the coronation of Henry IV., carried the great golden spurs. Being subsequently taken prisoner in Wales, by Owen Glendower, he was compelled to obtain the king's licence for the sale of several of his manors, in order to pay his ransom, which being settled for that purpose in feoffees, they soon afterwards conveyed this manor to John Drue, rector of Harpley, and John Seymour, of London, who sold it to Sir William Cromer, draper, of London, and lord mayor in 1413. He bore for his arms, *Argent, a chevron engrailed, between three crowns, sable.*

He was son of John Cromer, of Aldenham, in Herts., in which county there was a manor of the same name, but whether these Cromer's had any connexion with it we do not find. He married Margaret, one of the daughters and coheirs of Thomas Squerie, of Squerie's court, in Westerham, who dying in 1433, was buried on the south side of the church of St. Martin's, in London, in a chapel he had there caused to be erected. His widow afterwards married Lord Poynings.

He was succeeded in this manor by his son and heir, William Cromer, esq. of Tunstall, sheriff in the 23d of the above reign, but five years afterwards he was put to death by the rebel Jack Cade, being beheaded as well for his opposition to those mutineers, as on account of his marriage with Elizabeth, daughter of the Lord Say and Seal, whom they had also massacred, and whose heads they exposed upon London bridge. Elizabeth, his wife, surviving, afterwards married Alexander Iden, esq. of Westwell, sheriff in the 35th year of that reign, who slew the rebel, Cade, murderer of her former husband and father, in whose descendants, resident at Tunstall, this manor continued down to William Cromer, esq. of Tunstall. He, being concerned in the rebellion of Sir Thomas Wyatt, under Philip and Mary, was attainted, and this manor, among the rest of his estates, forfeited to the crown, where it remained till he was restored in blood, as well as in his possessions, under Queen Elizabeth, after which he served the office of sheriff, having been also justice of the peace, and knighted.

Sir William Cromer died in 1598, and was interred among his ancestors in this church. By his second wife, Elizabeth,

daughter of Sir John de Guldeford, he left one son, Sir James Cromer, of Tunstall, sheriff under James I. He neglected the ancient seat of the Cromer's, at Grove end, in this parish, and began to erect another about a mile eastward from the ancient mansion, but, dying before it was finished, there have been no remains of the structure for many years. He died in 1613, and was buried on the south side of the chancel of this church, where a costly monument was erected to his memory, bearing the effigies of himself, his second wife, and four daughters.

Upon the partition of the estates of Sir James Cromer, between his two surviving daughters and coheirs, the manor of Tunstall was allotted to Christian, the youngest, who carried it in marriage to John Hales, esq., eldest son of Sir Edward Hales, knight and baronet, of Tenterden. The family of the Hales's was originally seated at Hales place, in Halden, whence they were originally called At Hale. Nicholas at Hale lived there in the reign of Edward III., and left two sons, Sir Robert Hales, prior of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, and lord treasurer; and Sir Nicholas de Hales, who succeeded to his father's estates in this county. His son, Thomas, of Hales place, left three sons, the eldest of whom, John, was ancestor of the Hales's, of this county; and from the second son, descended those of Coventry, in Warwickshire, and of Shetterfield and Newland, in that county, which two latter are both extinct. John Hales, above mentioned, the eldest son, was of Hales place, whose son, Henry, married Julian, daughter and heir of Richard Capel, of Tenderden, by whom he had two sons, John and Thomas, the latter of whom was A.M. and father of Sir Christopher Hales, attorney general, and master of the rolls, in the reign of Henry VIII., who left three daughters and coheirs. John Hales, the eldest son, was one of the barons of the Exchequer, seated at the manor of the Dongeon, in Canterbury, and married to Isabella, daughter and coheir of Stephen Harvey, by which union he had four sons, of whom, Sir James, the eldest, succeeded him at the Dongeon. That branch terminated in a female, who died in the reign of Charles II.; Thomas, the second son, was of Thanington, whose descendant, Robert, was created a baronet in 1660, and ancestor of Sir Philip Hales, bart.; Edward, the third son, was of Tenterden; and William, the fourth, of Reculver and Nackington; which line ended in

a daughter and heir, Margaret, married to Roger Manwood.

Edward, the third son, of Tenterden, left two sons; John, the eldest, was of the same place, and married Mary, daughter and coheir of Robert Horne, bishop of Winchester, and died; Edward was of Tenterden, and succeeded his brother; and William, the third son, was of Chilham. Edward Hales, esq. of Tenterden, was the father of Sir Edward, created a baronet in 1611. He was twice married, first to Deborah, only daughter and heir of Martin Herlackenden, esq. of Woodchurch, by which alliance he had four sons; of whom, John, the eldest, married Christian, one of the daughters and coheirs of Sir James Cromer, as before mentioned, and in her right became possessed of the manor of Tunstall; and Samuel, the youngest, married to Martha, daughter of Stephen Heronden, who left an only son, Edward Hales, of Chilston.

Sir Edward Hales, bart. removed his seat from Tenterden to Woodchurch, in which parish he possessed the ancient seat of Herlackenden in right of his wife, on whose death, he married Martha, daughter of Sir Mathew Carew, the elder, relict of Sir James Cromer, by whom he had no issue, and dying in 1654, was buried in this church, where a handsome monument is erected to his memory, presenting his effigy, in white marble, lying at full length.

John Hales, esq., the eldest son of Sir Edward, as before mentioned, was afterwards knighted, but died during the life of his father, in 1639, leaving a son, Edward, then about thirteen years of age. He succeeded his grandfather in title and estate, in 1654, but being most zealously attached to the royal cause, risked his fortune, as well as person, in support of that unfortunate monarch, Charles I.; by which means he ruined the former, and was obliged, on that account, to abandon his native country, to which he never afterwards returned, having died in France soon after the restoration of Charles II. He married Anne, youngest of the four daughters and coheirs of Thomas lord Wotton, who died in 1654, by whom he had four sons, the eldest, Sir Edward Hales, bart., having, in the reign of Charles II., purchased the mansion and estate of St. Stephen's, near Canterbury, where his descendants afterwards resided.

He was in high favor with James II., who constituted him of

his privy council, and lieutenant governor of the Tower, and on his leaving Whitehall, in 1688, in hopes of escaping into France, that prince took with him only three persons, one of whom was Sir Edward Hales; but the vessel wherein they had embarked being discovered, the king was conducted to shore, with his attendants, when Sir Edward Hales being well known, was made prisoner, and afterwards conveyed to the Tower. On his release, he went immediately to France, and was received with great marks of favor by King James, who created him earl of Tenterden and viscount Tunstall. He died there in 1695, and was buried in the church of St. Sulpice, in Paris, having married Frances, daughter of Sir Francis Windebank, of Oxfordshire, who died before him. He had by that union five sons and seven daughters; of the former, Edward, the eldest, was killed at the battle of the Boyne, in Ireland, and buried there, when John became his heir, the other children having died.

Sir John Hales, bart., his eldest surviving son, resided at his seat at St. Stephen's, near Canterbury, where he died, after several years seclusion, in 1743, having been twice married; first, to Helen, daughter of Sir Richard Bealing, and secondly, to Helen, daughter of Dadley Bagnall, esq.

He left by his first wife two sons and one daughter, Frances, married to George Henry, earl of Litchfield. Of the sons, Edward, the eldest, died at Canterbury during the lifetime of his father, in 1729, and was buried at Tunstall, having married the relict of Captain Bulstrode. She survived him, and left a son, Edward, who succeeded his grandfather in title and estate; and John, who died. By his second wife he left three sons, James, Alexander, and Philip, all of whom departed this life.

Sir Edward Hales, bart. succeeded his grandfather in title and estate, and was possessor of the manor of Tunstall. He married, first, Mabella, daughter and heir of Sir John Webb, bart., who died in 1770, by whom he had one son, Edward Hales, esq., who married a daughter of Henry Darell, esq. of Calehill; and three daughters, Anne, Elizabeth, and Barbara. He married, secondly, Mrs. Palmer, of Westminster, widow, by whom he had no issue. He bore for his arms, *Gules, three arrows in pale, or, feathered and bearded argent.* A court-baron is held for this manor on the site of the ancient manor house at Grove

End. It extends into the parishes of Bicknor, Bredgar, and Borden.

Ufton is a reputed manor, the house of which stands at the northern extremity of the parish, next to Sittingbourne, and was anciently the property of the family of the Shurland's. Sir Robert de Shurland, of Shurland, in Shepey, possessed it in the reign of Edward I., having attended that king into Scotland to the seige of Carlaverock, where he was knighted; and in the 29th year of the same reign, he obtained a charter of *free warren* for his manor of Ufton.

He left an only daughter and heir, Margaret, who carried the estate in marriage to William de Cheney, afterwards of Shurland, who died possessed of it in the 8th of Edward III. His descendant, Richard Cheney, of Shurland, left issue two sons, William, who was of Shurland, ancestor of the lords of Cheney; and Simon, who appears to have inherited the manor of Ufton. He married Eleonora, daughter and heir of John Nottingham, of Higham, in Milsted, at which place his descendants resided. The Cheney's bore for their arms, *Ermine on a bend, azure, three martlets, or*, and quartered those of Shurland, Cralle, and Nottingham. They continued owners of this manor till John Cheney, esq. of Sittingbourne, in the reign of Henry VIII., gave it in marriage with his daughter, Frances, to John Astley, esq. of Norfolk, only son of Thomas Astley, esq. of Hill Morton and Melton Constable in Norfolk. He left a son and heir, Isaac, and several other children, but gave this manor in marriage, with his eldest daughter, Bridget, to Walter Herlackenden, descended from those of Woodchurch, and bearing the same arms. He afterwards resided here, and in his descendants, resident at Ufton hall, this manor continued down to Silvester Herlackenden, who, about the year 1700, conveyed it by sale to Robert West, gent. He left two daughters his coheirs, of whom, Mary married John Hyde, esq., and Elizabeth espoused Samuel Hyde, esq., when the latter and his wife dying, the whole of this manor became vested in the former, John Hyde, esq. of Blackheath, who had two sons, West and John; the eldest of whom, West Hyde, esq. afterwards possessed this property.

Gore court is an ancient seat in this parish, about half a mile distant from Ufton, that gave name to the family which

possessed it, called in old writings At Gore. Henry At Gore held Gore court at his death, in the reign of Edward III., and in his descendants it continued for several generations, till at last James Gore sold it to Thomas Roydon, of East Peckham. His son sold it to Mr. Christopher Wood, descended from those of Muston manor, in Hollingbourne; and his son, Mathew Wood, possessed it on his decease, as did his son, Henry. Christopher Wood, of Gore court, son of the latter, in 1674, alienated it to Charles Seager, of Tunstall, who dying in 1679, left three sons, Charles, Henry, and William; and a daughter, Jane, who married Mr. John Nethersole, of Barham, who shared this estate among them. Of the sons, Henry died unmarried, and William parted with his interest in this property to his elder brother, Charles Seagar, of Borden, who joining with his sister, Jane Nethersole, widow, conveyed the manor of Gore, in 1723, to Edward Mores Clerk, rector of this parish, descended from a good family of Great Coxwell, in Berkshire. He bore for his arms, four coats quarterly, first and fourth, *Mores, argent on a fess couped, gules between three heathcocks, gules, a garb or;* second and third, *Rowe, gules a quartre-foil, or.* He died possessed of the estate in 1740, and was succeeded by his only son, Edward Rowe Mores, of Low Layton, Essex, M.A. and F.R.S. This gentleman published several tracts upon antiquity and other subjects, and left numerous MSS. unpublished, among which was the *history of this parish*, afterwards printed by Mr. Nicholls. He died in 1778, previous to which he alienated this estate to Mr. Charles Stanley, who afterwards resided here; and died in 1791, when his heirs sold the property to Gabriel Harper, esq., who rebuilt this seat at a great expense, and served the office of sheriff in 1795.

PITSTOCK, usually called *Pistock,* is a small manor situated in the south-east part of this parish, adjoining to Rodmersham, which name has been for some years changed to that of Woodstock, as the sound of Pistock was disapproved.

In the reign of Edward IV. this manor was in the possession of William Robesart, of Minster, in Shepey, who by will, under Henry VII., devised it to Cicelie, his wife, for her life, and afterwards, to the Benedictine nunnery of Minster, in Shepey, for the use of a solemn *obit*, and other services. It continued part of the possessions of that institution till the general disso-

lution of religious houses, under Henry VIII., when becoming vested in the crown, the king granted it to Sir Thomas Cheney, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service. His son and heir, Henry Cheney, esq. of Todington, in the reign of Elizabeth, alienated this manor of Pistock, and the woods, with a parcel, called Mynchyny wood, to Richard Thornhill, citizen and grocer of London, whose son and heir, Samuel, devised it to his heir, Sir John Thornhill, of Bromley. His descendant, Charles, in the reign of Charles II., sold it to Mr. James Tong; in which name it continued till sold to one Hayter, who passed it away by sale to Abraham Chambers, of Bicknor. He built a new seat on this manor, at a small distance from the old house, in which he afterwards resided till his removal to Totteridge, in Herts. He died in 1782, leaving four sons, Samuel, Abraham, Henry James, and William; and one daughter, Anne Maria Emily, who married Mr. Foley; when upon the division of his estates, this manor became the sole property of his eldest son, Samuel Chambers, esq. who resided there.

TUNSTALL HOUSE is a seat in this parish, situated at a small distance from the church, which was for several generations the property and residence of the family of the Grove's. It was, most probably, built by Mr. John Grove, gent., steward to Sir Edward Hales, bart. who resided and died here in 1678, as did his grandson, John, in 1755; both of whom were buried in this church, having borne for their arms, *Ermine on a chevron, gules, three escalops argent.* The latter left by his wife two sons, Pearce and Richard; and a daughter, Anne. His two sons, Pearce and Richard Groves, esq., became entitled to this seat, as heirs in *gavelkind*, and joined in the sale of the same to the Rev. Thomas Bland, vicar of Sittingbourne, who died possessed of it in 1776. He left by Mary his wife three sons, Richard, Thomas, and William; and two daughters. His widow survived him, and died possessed of the property in 1780, on which it went to their eldest son, the Rev. Richard Bland, who dying in 1794, this mansion was converted into a boarding school for young ladies.

TUNSTALL is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sittingbourne. The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, consists of three aisles and a chancel, to which has been added a small chapel,

on the north side. It has a tower steeple at the west end, wherein there is a peal of five bells.

In the windows are several coats of arms, commemorative of the Cromer's, quartering Squerie, and empaling several marriages, but much defaced. In this church was the burial-place of the family of the Cromer's, as it still remains of that of the Hales's. Here is a monument and effigies for Sir James Cromer; and another elegant tomb for Sir Edward Hales, first baronet of that name, under the date 1654. An altar tomb of white alabaster, but without inscription, adorns this building, most probably raised for one of the Cromer's; another monument, with effigies, for Robert Cheek, D.D., 1647; and a cenotaph, with a bust, for Edward Mores, A.D. 1740, both rectors. Here is also a tomb for John Grove, esq., 1755; and, among many others, memorials for several of the Cromer's, as well as Margaret Rycel, A.D. 1496; also a brass plate for Sir John Guildford, 1595; and another, with his effigies in brass, for Radulf Wulf, rector, under the date 1525.

This rectory was formerly an appendage to the manor, and so continued till Hubert earl of Kent gave it, in the reign of Henry III., to Richard archbishop of Canterbury, the same having been confirmed by Henry III., in his 13th year, when it remained part of the possessions of that see.

In 1557 it was estimated at £14, the parishioners being sixty, and the families amounting to sixteen. It was valued in the king's books at £14 8 4, the yearly tenths being £1 8 10. In 1640 the estimation was £80, the communicants forty-eight; and in 1740, £105, there having been about nine acres of glebe land belonging to this living.

In 1821 there were twenty-six dwellings in the parish of Tunstall; and, at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 75, females 85, making a total of 160 souls.

Bredgar, or Bradgare, as it was sometimes spelt, is the next parish from Tunstall. Although the road from Sittingbourne to Hollingbourne hill, and thence to Maidstone, passes through this parish and village of Bredgar, it is rather an unfrequented place, lying obscure among the hills, and bounding

eastward to the woods. It contains nearly 1300 acres of land, whereof 100 are woodlands; the village, which stands on high ground, nearly in the centre of the parish, having the church and college or chantry therein. It is a healthy and not unpleasant situation, being mostly surrounded by pasture grounds; but the remaining part of the parish is very hilly, the soil poor and chalky, and much covered with flints, presenting, upon the whole, a dreary situation. At the entrance of the village there is a good house, inhabited for many years by the family of the Beales's, the last of whom, Mr. John Beale, of Bredgar, dying in 1769, gave it among his relations, when the house became the property of his sister's son, Mr. Pattison. A little distance hence is a modern-fronted house, which belonged to the Rev. Mr. Marsh, rector of Bicknor, who resided there.

The paramount manor of Milton claims over this parish, as do also *the subordinate manors of Tunstall and Bobbing* over some portion of the same.

It appears from ancient records that there was a family resident in this parish which thence derived its name. Robert de Bredgar resided here under Henry III., whose name appears in an ancient roll of the benefactors to the monastery of Davington; he bore for his arms, *Argent, a bend gules, fretty azure between two lions rampant of the second;* and in the reign of Richard II., Robert de Bredgar, clerk and parson of this parish, founded a chantry or college in the church here, as will be further mentioned.

Bexon, or Baxton, is a manor situated in the southern part of this parish, that confers its name both to a *borough* and *street* therein. It was anciently in the possession of a family which thence assumed its surname, one of whom, John de Bexon, was resident there in the reigns of Edward II. and III., whose effigies were formerly painted in one of the windows of this church, with a scroll beneath. In the following reign, however, of Richard II., this manor had become the property of the family of the Tong's, which was of some account in different parts of East Kent, as well as in this neighbourhood; as it appears, from some ancient deeds, that Semanus de Tong, in the 16th year of that reign, was tenant to the Maison Dieu, in Ospringe, for lands at Lorinden, in Challock, who sealed with *a bend cotized, argent, between six martlets, gules.* In that name this estate

continued down to John Tong, gent., who, about the latter end of the reign of Charles I., alienated it to Mr. Thomas Fearne, who bore for his arms *Per bend, gules and or, two leopards' heads counterchanged.* One of his descendants, Mr. John Fearne, passed it away by sale to Mr. Thomas Best, of Chatham, whose grandson, Thomas Best, esq. of Chilston, dying in 1795, gave it by will, among his other estates, to his youngest nephew, George Best, esq. of Chilston, who afterwards possessed the same.

SWANTON COURT, now generally called *Swan court,* is also a manor in the southern part of this parish, adjoining to Bicknor, which was formerly part of the possessions of the eminent family of the Leyborne's, of Leyborne, in this county. In that line it continued till Juliana, daughter of Thomas, and heir of her grandfather, William de Leyborne, dying without issue by any of her husbands, this estate, in the reign of Edward III., became escheated to the crown, and so remained till the king, in his 50th year, granted it to the abbey of St. Mary Grace's, on Tower hill, then founded by him; part of the possessions whereof it remained till the dissolution of that monastery, in the 30th of Henry VIII., when it was surrendered to the king.

Soon after the above period, that prince granted the manor to Ralph Fane, esq., who parted with it to Sir Thomas Wyatt; and he passed it to the king, in exchange for other premises. This manor thus devolving again to the king's hands, he granted it, in his 38th year, to Christopher Sampson, esq., to hold *in capite,* by knight's service, who, in the 5th of Edward VI., alienated it to Thomas Reader, yeoman, of Bredgar; and he having levied a fine in the 16th of Queen Elizabeth, afterwards sold it to William Terry. The latter, in the reign of King James I., partly by sale, and partly on account of alliance, settled this property upon Mr. William Aldersey, descended from an ancient family of that name established at Aldersey, in Cheshire, who bore for his arms, *Gules on a bend, argent, three leopards' heads, vert, between two cinque-foils, or; in chief, a crescent within a crescent, for difference.* He married Thomasine, daughter of Mr. Roger Terry; and their descendants continued to reside here, till at length Hugh Aldersey, esq. dying in 1762, his heirs at law alienated it, about the year 1767, to John Toke,

esq. late of Goddington, in Great Chart, but afterwards of Canterbury.

MANNS is an estate in this parish, formerly accounted a manor, which took its name from a family that was possessed of this estate. One of the line, John Mann, died possessed of it in the 50th of Edward III., when it was found, by inquisition, that he held it of the king, *in capite*, by knight's service, and that Joan was his daughter and next heir. How it then passed we have not found, but the next who possessed the estate was the family of the Isley's, one of whom, Thomas Isley, proprietor of this manor, left five daughters and coheirs, viz. Mary, married to Francis Spelman; Frances, to William Boys, esq.; Elizabeth, to Anthony Mason, esq.; Anne, to George Delves, esq.; and Jane, to Francis Haute, esq. After which, Francis Spelman and Mary, his wife, in 1583, alienated their fifth part to Robert and Thomas Whytfield, and their heirs male.

In the reign of James I., William Hales, esq. of Nackington, was possessed of the principal messuage, called Manns, with the lands belonging thereto; and in 1640, with his son, William Hales, the younger, he passed it away by sale to Thomas Godfrey, the younger, of Lid. He then disposed of the estate to one Clerke, whose family had possessed lands here some time previous, as Humphrey Clarke, otherwise Woodchurch, esq. of Bredgar, grandson of Humphrey Clarke, of Kingsnoth, resided here in the reign of James I. He dying in 1608, was buried in the north aisle of this church, having borne for his arms, *Paly, wavy of six pieces, ermine and gules.* He alienated the property to one Reader; in whose descendants it continued down to Mr. John Reader, who died possessed of it; and his heir at law alienated it to Mr. James Chapman, gent. of Milton, youngest son of Edward Chapman, esq. of Molash; whose grandson, James, afterwards possessed the same.

In the 16th of Richard II., Robert de Bradgare, rector of this church, John Burbache, and others, founded, with the king's licence, A CHANTRY OR SMALL COLLEGE in the church of Bredgar, in honour of the Holy Trinity; the same having consisted of a chaplain, or secular priest in holy orders, and two scholar clerks, or confreers, who were to govern it, and celebrate divine offices continually, excepting at those times when the scholars

should be employed at their studies. They endowed it with different houses, rents, and lands, in this and the adjoining parishes, to hold to them and their successors for ever; and in 1398, the above-mentioned Robert de Bradgare, with the consent of Archbishop Arundel, who then confirmed this foundation, gave to them, under his seal, rules and statutes for the better regulation of the establishment. At the above period, there seems to have been a building erected, called the *College*, for the residence of the persons so employed, the edifice in question having adjoined the church of Bredgar.

In that state the chantry or hospital continued till the reign of Henry VIII., when it was surrendered, with all its possessions, to the king. Soon after, the site, by the name of the *chantry-house of Bredgar*, with sundry premises belonging thereto in Bredgar, Borden, and Bicknor, were granted by the king to George Harpur, esq., who exchanged them with that monarch for different estates in this and other counties. After the last-mentioned period, they seem to have remained in the hands of the crown till Queen Elizabeth, in her 3d year, having taken to herself several manors and lands, parcels of the see of Canterbury, by letters patent that year, granted to Archbishop Parker and his successors, several rectories, parsonages, and other premises, in lieu of the same, among which was this dissolved college of Bredgar, then valued at £13 6 8. From that time it has continued parcel of the possessions of the archbishopric, the tenths, payable to the crown receiver from this dissolved chantry having been £1 17 7½.

William Sherman, esq. was the lessee in 1643, at an annual rent of £13 6 8; and after him, Edward Jeffry, who new fronted and much improved the chantry-house, wherein he afterwards resided.

BREDGAR is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sittingbourne. The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, consists of three aisles and one chancel, and has a square beacon tower at the west end. On the western side of the tower is a fine Saxon doorcase, with zigzag ornaments; and on the capitals of the pillars are carved two heads, of a very ludicrous description. By the injudicious digging of a vault for Mrs.

Murton, of this parish, in 1791, two of the columns gave way, and the main arch between the body and chancel came down, which damage was, however, subsequently repaired.

In this church are several memorials for the Tong's and the Fearne's, of Bexon, particularly for John Fearne, under the date 1713. In the north aisle is a monument for Humphrey Clarke, otherwise Woodchurch, esq., obiit 1608; there are also memorials for the Aldersey's, of Swanton, among which is a tomb for Hugh Aldersey, A.D. 1762, and Mary Thurston, his wife. At the east end of the churchyard are several grave-stones, commemorative of the Beale's and the Thurston's; and a very ancient tomb, near the south porch, whereon was once an effigy, in brass, while on the east extremity of the stone is a cross carved in relief.

Henry III. gave this structure, in pure and perpetual alms, to the leprous women of the hospital of St. James's, at the end of Wincheap, near Canterbury, in order that Mr. Firman, then master, should enjoy it for his life; but there was no vicarage endowed therein, till Archbishop Courtney, in the reign of Richard II., instituted one for that purpose.

After the above period, this church appropriate, as well as the advowson, continued part of the possessions of the hospital till it was surrendered, in 1551, under Edward VI., at which time there appeared to be a manor, called FILCHER or FILTER, belonging to the rectory of Bredgar appropriate; all which, together with the advowson, seem to have remained in the hands of the crown till Queen Elizabeth granted them to Thomas Reader, who possessed them in 1578. He afterwards sold them to Mr. William Terry, who, in the reign of James I., passed them away to his kinsman, William Aldersey, of Swanton court; in whose descendants they continued till Hugh Aldersey, esq. of Bredgar, about the beginning of the reign of George II., alienated them to Mr. John Tappenden; whose son, of the same name, sold them to Sir Edward Dering, bart. of Surrenden, who became the owner of this manor and rectory, with the advowson of the vicarage of the church of Bredgar.

In 1578 the communicants were 155, and under Queen Anne, the vicarage was worth £30 per annum. It was subsequently a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly value of £36, the yearly tenths being 18s.

In 1821, there were fifty-eight dwellings in the parish of Bredgar; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 266, females 242, making a total of 508 souls.

MILSTED is the next adjoining parish southeastward from Bredgar, and lies on high ground, among the hills, being surrounded by wood, and the situation much like that of Bredgar. This parish is but small, containing only 800 acres of land, whereof about fifty are wood. The soil in the upper or southern part is poor, consisting partly of chalk and red earth, the whole being much covered with flints; but in the centre and northern parts it is more fertile and better adapted for tillage. The church stands nearly in the middle of the parish, having the mansion of Hogshaws almost adjoining the churchyard, at the west part of which the parsonage stands. At no great distance northward, in the vale, stand the few dwellings constituting the village of this parish; and near the south-east boundary is Tarry hill, which belonged to Mr. Osborne Tylden, who resided there; near the western boundary is Broadoak forstal, and the hamlet so called, on which forstal stands a remarkably large juniper tree.

THE MANOR OF MILTON claims *paramount* over the largest part of this parish; subordinate to which is THE MANOR OF MILSTED, which, in the reign of Edward I., was in the possession of Thomas Abelyn, who died possessed of it under that monarch, then holding it as one messuage, and one carucate and a half of land in Milsted, and pasture for 300 sheep in the marsh of Elmele, of the king *in capite*, by knight's service. He was succeeded therein by Nicholas Abelyn, who died two years after, holding it by the like service. Soon after, it appears to have passed to the family of the Savage's, one of whom, John le Sauvage, obtained a grant of *free warren*, in the 23d of the above reign, for his lands in Milsted and other places; but before the 20th of Edward III. this name seems to have become extinct, as, on constituting the black prince a knight, the heirs of John Savage paid aid for this manor. Indeed it appears from the commencement of the above reign to have been vested in the name of Mocking, from which it passed into that of Hoggeshaw,

as we find that Elmeline, wife of Sir Thomas Hoggeshaw, died in the 50th year of the above prince, possessed of the manor of Milsted, held of the king *in capite*, as one knight's fee.

Their son, Edmund Hoggeshaw, then succeeded to the possession, which had acquired the name of Milsted, otherwise Hoggeshaws, by which it has ever since been known. He died in the 12th of Richard II., upon which, Joane, one of his sisters and coheirs, entitled her husband, Thomas Lovel, esq., to this estate, whose son, Thomas, in the 12th of Henry VI., held a court for this manor. By one of his descendants it was sold to Robert Greaves, who died in the 9th of Henry VII., holding it in manner as above mentioned, when Catherine, wife of George Sole, who was his daughter, became his heir. Soon after it passed to Roger Wake, who died in the 19th of Henry VII., when this manor, with the advowson of the church of Milsted, he devised by will to Margaret, his daughter, whose husband, John Barnard, esq., entered into the possession of this property. At length, his grandson, of the same name, dying an infant, in the 14th of Henry VIII., it became vested, by the limitations in the will of Roger Wake, above mentioned, in his right heirs, who conveyed their interest therein to Sir Thomas Nevyle. He passed it away by sale to Sir Robert Southwell, who, in the 4th of Edward VI., alienated, by fine then levied, the manor of Hoggeshaws, otherwise Milsted, and the advowson of the church of Milsted, then held of the king *in capite*, to Thomas Henman, sen. and his heirs. Alan Henman, of Lenham, son of the above, in the 12th of that reign, sold the estate to Thomas Thomson, of Sandwich, jurat, for the use of Agnes, his daughter, who entitled her husband, John Toke, gent. of Goddington, to the possession of the same. She survived her husband, and by will, in 1629, devised it to her eldest son, Nicholas Toke, esq. of Great Chart, who, in 1631, under Charles I., passed away both the manor and advowson to Edward Chute, esq. of Bethersden. His son, George, having espoused Eleanor Toke, his eldest daughter, he, under Charles I., conveyed it, by fine then levied, to Richard Tylden, gent. of Great Chart, and William Tylden, then an infant son. The family of the Tylden's had anciently possessions in the parishes of Brenchley, Otterden, Kenington, and Tilmanstone, in this county; one of whom, William Tylden, paid aid for lands in

this county in the 20th of Edward III. In the reign of Elizabeth a branch of this line was settled in the parish of Wormsell, a member whereof, namely, William Tylden, died there in 1613. His direct descendant, Richard Tylden, esq. of Great Chart, who bore for his arms, *Azure, a saltier ermine between four pheons, or,* purchased this manor and advowson, as above mentioned, whose eldest son, William Tylden, gent. was of Hoggeshaws, as was his son, Richard. The latter dying in 1763, was buried, with his ancestors, in the chapel of the Tylden's, in this church. By Elizabeth, his wife, he left one son, Richard Osborne; and three daughters; when Richard succeeded his father in this estate, and left his widow surviving, whose son, Richard, on his mother's death, became possessed of the estate, and he married Catherine Rolfe, of Ashford, who died in 1783. The last court held for this manor, being a court-baron, was in 1632.

HIGHAM COURT, now usually called *Great Higham,* is a manor in this parish, anciently the property of a family of the name of Nottingham, whence it acquired, as appears by old writings, the name of *Nottingham court.*

They resided at Bayford, in Sittingbourne, as early as the reign of Edward I. Robert de Nottingham, owner of this estate, in the reign of Edward III., was sheriff in the 48th year of that prince, at which period he died, when his estates descended to his son, John Nottingham. He died leaving his daughter sole heir, who marrying Simon Cheney, of Cralle, in Sussex, he became entitled to this manor. The family of the Nottingham's bore for their arms, *Gules, two pales, wavy argent;* which coat, empaled with Cheney, appeared in the windows of Milsted church. On the roof, also, of Canterbury cathedral, are carved the arms of the Nottingham's, *Gules on a bend, argent, three escalops, azure;* but what kindred they were to those of Milsted we have not ascertained. In his descendants this manor continued till Richard Cheney, esq. and his son, John, in 1676, joined in the conveyance of the same to Mr. Thomas Lushington, of Sittingbourne, whose great grandson, the Rev. Stephen Lushington, afterwards owned this manor.

MILSTED is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sittingbourne. The church, dedicated to St. Mary and the Holy Cross, is small,

consisting of one aisle and a chancel, with a low square tower at the west end. On the north side is also a small chancel belonging to the Tylden's; and on the south side, another for the proprietors of Higham court, which was pulled down by the consent of the owner and parishioners in 1672.

In the churchyard, near the south porch, is a very ancient tombstone, having thereon *a cross botony, fitchee*, carved in relief.

The church of Milsted was given by King John to one Wydon, a clerk, who held it, as appears by the *Testa de Nevill*, in the following reign of Henry III. We have not found whether he was lord of Milsted manor or not, but, from the next reign of Edward I. down to a late period, this church seems to have continued in the same possessors, and as such, the advowson thereof became the property of Richard Tylden, esq. of Hoggeshaws.

In 1578 there were fifty-five communicants; and in 1640, eighty-seven, when it was valued at £50 per annum. It was a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear annual value of £44, the yearly tenths being 17s. 6d. The glebe land consists of only three acres.

In 1821 there were twenty-nine dwellings in the parish of Milsted; and, at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 109, females 82, making a total of 191 souls.

KINGSDOWN lies the next parish eastward from Milsted, and is generally called Kingsdown near Sittingbourne, to distinguish it from a parish of the same name near Farningham.

This district is situated obscurely among the hills, on elevated ground, the parish being very small, comprising only 600 acres of land, of which one half are wood. The soil is very poor and chalky, and much covered with flints; the church stands nearly in the centre of the parish, the woods of which are very thick throughout, especially on the east and west sides. Near the former is a hamlet called Dungate green, and not far from the same, a good modern house, built by Mr. Stephen Allsworth, whose son, John, leaving an only daughter, Anne, she carried it in marriage to Mr. Thomas Hawe.

THE MANOR OF KINGSDOWNE in the reign of Henry III., was part of the possessions of Hubert de Burgh, earl of Kent, who gave this manor to the hospital of St. Mary, called the Maison Dieu, in Dover; subsequent to which, the master of that establishment obtained a grant of *free warren* for his lands here, among others whereof he was possessed.

This manor remained in that situation till the dissolution of the hospital, under Henry VIII., when it was surrendered, with all its possessions, to the king. It appears to have remained in the hands of the crown till the reign of Edward VI., who granted it, among other premises, to Sir Thomas Cheney, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service, who, in the first of Queen Mary, sold it to Thomas Finch, gent., when it appears he then resided at Kingsdown, as tenant of the manor, under the master and brethren of the Maison Dieu. He was descended from John Finch, second son of Vincent Herbert, otherwise Finch, of Netherfield, in Sussex, whose eldest son, William, was ancestor of the several branches of this family of the name of Finch, ennobled by peerages at different times, having also borne their arms. John, the second son, above mentioned, married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Richard Seward, of Sewards, in Linsted, of which seat he became possessed in her right, and afterwards resided there. He died in 1442, and was buried at Levington, after which, his grandson, John Finch of Linsted, left two sons, Herbert, who was of Linsted, and Thomas, who purchased this manor of Kingsdown, as above mentioned. He died under Philip and Mary, A.D. 1555, after which, the estate continued in his descendants down to Thomas Finch, esq., who dying, bequeathed the manor and part of the demesnes belonging thereto to his brother's daughter, Judith Finch. She carried it in marriage to John Umfrey, esq. of Darent, who bore for his arms, *Gules, a cross botony, argent, charged with five pellets;* from whom it descended to Finch Umfrey, gent. of Dartford, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. John Jarvis, of the same place. He died without issue, and gave this manor, with part of the demesnes before mentioned, to his widow, who died in 1781, and by her will devised it to her next heirs, who, at the period of her death, consisted of two persons of the name of Brook, uncle and nephew, as coheirs in gavelkind, when they joined in the sale of this estate, in 1782, to Mr. Thomas Smith,

gent. of Dartford. On the demise of the latter, in 1787, it passed by his will to his nephews, Thomas, William, and George Smith, after which it became vested in Mr. Thomas Williams, gent. of South Darent. A court-leet and court-baron is held for this manor.

The rest of the demesnes, however, of this manor, which comprehended by far the largest part of the same, were sold by one of the family of the Finch's, to that of the Bartholomew's, of Oxenhoath, in which name this estate remained till one of them sold it to Cockin Sole, esq. of Bobbing. He died in 1750, and was succeeded in this estate by his son, John Cockin Sole, esq. afterwards of Norton court, who some years afterwards passed it away by sale to Mr. Evans; and he subsequently possessed the property.

KINGSDOWN is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sittingbourne. The church, dedicated to St. Catherine, is a small building, consisting of one aisle and a chancel, in the latter of which is a tomb of Bethersden marble, with a brass plate, against the east wall, erected in memory of Thomas Finch, gent.; as also to that of his son, Ralph Finch, esq., who was a great benefactor to this edifice; at the west end of which is a small turret, containing one bell. This church has always been an appendage to the manor, and so continued till the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Umfrey, when her two heirs at law and devisees, under her will, sold it, in 1782, to Thomas Pennington, D.D., late rector of this church.

In 1640 the rectory was valued at £50 per annum, the communicants being thirty-six; it was subsequently estimated at £60. This is a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly value of £45, the yearly tenths being 10s. 11d.

In 1821 there were eleven dwellings in the parish of Kingsdown; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 44, females 31, making a total of 75 souls.

RODMERSHAM lies northeastward from Kingsdown, and about a mile southward from Bapchild street and the high Dover road, on elevated ground, the church being distinctly seen from that spot. It contains 1050 acres of land, whereof about

seventy-five consist of wood. The village, which is built at intervals along the road, contains the church and two or three good modern houses; and at the opposite end is a new dwelling, which was for some years tenanted by the family of the Taylor's. At the south-east corner of the parish is the hamlet of Upper Rodmersham; and on the western side that of Rodmersham green, which joins a long tract of woodland called Minchin wood. The land in the lower or northern part being rich and fertile for corn, lets at a high rent; but higher up, among the hills, it becomes chalky and light, and in many places poor. The situation is rather pleasant, and, considering its proximity to a very unwholesome country, is not so unhealthy as might be expected.

THE PARAMOUNT MANOR OF MILTON claims over this district; *subordinate* to which is,

THE MANOR OF RODMERSHAM, anciently the inheritance of the family of De la Pine, whose seat of residence was at East-hall, in the neighbouring parish of Murston.

John de la Pine was possessed of this property in the 20th of Henry III., as appears by private evidences, whose grandson, James de la Pine, about the latter end of the reign of Richard II., sold it to John de Podach, descended originally from John de Podach, who held lands bearing his own name in Devonshire, in the reign of Henry III., as appeared by an ancient pedigree of this family. His descendants, possessors of the manor, from being generally called Pordage, ultimately wrote their name in that way, their ancient armorial bearings having been, *Argent a fess, chequy, or, and gules, in chief, three cross crosslets, sable;* whereas John Pordage altered the *fess* to plain *sable,* in which manner those of the family continued to bear the shield.

His descendant, Sir William Pordage, as well as his ancestors, resided at Rodmersham, where he rebuilt the manor-house in the reign of James I., naming the mansion New house; at whose request, in 1615, the pedigree of the Pordage's was drawn up from old evidences, by John Philipott Somerset, herald. Thence it appears that he bore for his arms six coats, Pordage, Crowland, Gourly, Belton, Gisors, and Barrow, all of which, except the first and last, were borne in right of the heir of Crowland; and in one of the windows of the church of Faversham were painted the arms of the Pordage's, impaling Crowland.

He died and was succeeded by his brother and heir, Thomas Pordage, esq , who resided here, when his grandson, William Pordage, about the reign of Queen Anne, alienated the estate, with the seat, and all his property in this neighbourhood, to Stephen Lushington, esq. of Sittingbourne, whose father, Mr. Thomas Lushington, had been in possession of the same under a mortgage term for some years previous. He was the son of Mr. Augustine Lushington, gent. of Sittingbourne, who bore for his arms, *Argent, a fess, engrailed gules between three lions' heads, erased or;* of which family was Thomas Lushington, a noted scholar of his time, born at Sandwich in 1589, and afterwards educated at Oxford, who subsequently became prebend of Salisbury. He wrote several books, and retiring in his latter days to his relations at Sittingbourne, died there in 1661, and was buried in the south chancel of that church, where a handsome monument was erected to his memory, by his kinsman, Thomas Lushington, esq. of Sittingbourne, whom he by will made heir to all his possessions.

Mr. Stephen Lushington was twice married, and left issue by both his wives; the eldest surviving son was Henry, vicar of East Bourne, in Sussex, and D.D. He left several children, of whom, Henry was murdered in the East Indies, and Stephen Lushington figured as a proctor in Doctor's Commons.

Thomas Godfrey Lushington, esq. of Sittingbourne, only son of Stephen by his first wife, succeeded him in this estate, and afterwards resided at Canterbury, where he died in 1757, and was buried at Sittingbourne, having had by his first wife, Dorothy, daughter of John Gisborne, esq of Derbyshire, three sons, Thomas, who died before him, unmarried; William, a captain in the army, who also departed this life a widower in 1763; and James Stephen, who was in holy orders. He had also two daughters, Dorothy, who died unmarried, and Catherine, who espoused John Cockin Sole, esq., when, upon his death, he gave this manor, with the seat of New house, and the rest of his possessions in this parish, to his second surviving son, the Rev. James Stephen Lushington, of Bottisham, near Cambridge, who subsequently possessed this manor.

The Rev. Mr. Lushington was prebendary of Carlisle, and twice married, first to Mary, one of the daughters of Edmund Law, lord bishop of Carlisle, who died in 1768, by whom he

had two sons and one daughter. He espoused, secondly, Mary, daughter of the Rev. Mr. Christian, of Norfolk, by whom he had three sons and two daughters.

RODMERSHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury, and *deanery* of Sittingbourne. The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, consists of three aisles and two chancels; that to the south belonging to the family of the Lushington's, as lords of the manor. It contains several memorials for the Pordage's; and in the high chancel are four seats, surmounted by a species of wooden canopy, probably used by the knights of St. John, when they visited their estate here. At the west end is a handsome tower steeple, built of squared flints, being of very superior masonry to the rest of the church. In the east window of the high chancel are these arms remaining, *a cross between four mullets;* there was also, in 1719, a scroll in the window recording the names of William Somptere and John Cheynestere, who had been munificent benefactors to this church. In the south chancel was also a plate for William Pery, under the date 1482.

A person unknown bequeathed one acre of woodland to beautify the church, of the annual produce of 12s.

Henry II. gave the church of Rodmersham to the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem; which was confirmed by King John in his 1st year.

About the same period an agreement was entered into between Alanus, prior of the hospital and chapter, and the abbot and convent of St. Augustine's, near Canterbury, that when their chapel of Rodmersham should be dedicated, and the cemetery consecrated, none of the rights of the mother church of Milton should be diminished, whereof one was that the burial of the housekeepers, male and female, of Rodmersham, should take place at Milton, and that neither in that nor any thing else they should sustain any injury whatsoever.

In 1640 the vicarage was valued at £30 per annum, the communicants being 100. It was afterwards a discharged living, estimated in the king's books at the clear yearly value of £30, the tenths being 16s. 8d.

In 1821 there were forty-one dwellings in the parish of Rodmersham; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of

inhabitants were as follow: males 148, females 159, making a total of 307 souls.

Bapchild is the next parish northward from Rodmersham, and was anciently written *Beccanceld,* which name answers extremely well to its situation, signifying in the Saxon language one that is both moist and bleak. It is equally unpleasant as unhealthy, lying, for the most part, low, the water being bad, and the air unwholesome, in consequence of the noxious vapours arising from the marshes at no great distance northward. The village, called Bapchild street, contains the vicarage, a small but neat modern building; and at the east end, adjoining the same side of the road, in a kind of orchard, are the remains of the old chapel, which will be further mentioned hereafter; a small remnant of the walls, rudely composed of flints, being all that now remains of the structure, forming part of a barn. It stands on the high Dover road, about forty miles from London, having the church at a small distance southward, whence the ground rises gently to the southern boundaries, next to Rodmersham; adjoining which is a dwelling called Wood Street house, built about the year 1776, by Mr. John May, of Sittingbourne, who resided there, and died in 1778, leaving a son, John, and a daughter, Anne, the latter having afterwards married Mr. Ambrose Russell.

There is an ancient and allowed fair held in this village, on the feast of St. Laurence, for toys and pedlary, the profits of which belong to the lord of Milton manor.

The lands in this parish, as well as those adjoining, near the high road from Sittingbourne to Boughton street, consist of a fine loamy fertile soil, which, though extending but a small distance southward of the road, continues equally fertile on the lower or northern side of the same, as far as the marshes.

The chief part of this tract of land is what in these parts is generally denominated *round tilt land,* that is to say, ground continually tilled without being made fallow, with the same succession of grain, viz. barley, beans, and wheat, year after year, more particularly the latter, the burden usually consisting of four or five quarters per acre, the annual rental of the land amounting to 20s.; a very considerable sum, considering the great burden of parochial taxes, and the high rate of servants'

wages in this part of the country. These expenses oblige the landholder to make the most of his soil, not permitting it to be lessened by hedgerows, or small enclosures, by which means most of the farms are thrown into two or three, or perhaps only one field, whereof several contain sixty, seventy, and a hundred acres or more, which renders the country more open and champaign than is found in the other districts.

In 694, Withred king of Kent convened A GREAT COUNCIL of the nobility and clergy, whereat he presided, the meeting being held at Becanceld, or Bapchild, as it is supposed to mean, according to several learned men, among whom are Camden, Dr. Plot, and Mr. Johnson, of Cranbrooke. Some few, indeed, have conjectured the name, from its similitude, to mean Beckenham, at the western extremity of this county; but Bapchild equally resembles it, especially as one copy records the word as *Bachanchild*, and being situated in the midst of the county, close to the high road, and so near Canterbury, those circumstances render it much more probable to have been held here than at Beckenham.

The constitution of this council, whereby several privileges were granted to the church, was drawn up in the form of a charter; at which period it should seem, the abbesses were held in such high esteem for their prudence and sanctity, that five of their names are subscribed to the instrument, not only before those of the priests, but above the signature of Botred, a bishop, contrary to all former precedents, which makes the validity of this charter much doubted.

Dr. Stillingfleet conjectures that the document in question was the first charter ever drawn up among the Saxons; if such be the fact, all instruments produced as having been granted before that period, must be spurious and counterfeit; the same authority also states, that the year of the Christian æra was never applied before that time to any public record.

There are yet part of the walls of an oratory remaining on the north side, near the high road, almost at the end of Bapchild street, by some supposed to have been erected in memory of the celebration of that council; which edifice was in later times used by the pilgrims, who, on their journey to Canterbury to the shrine of St. Thomas à Becket, there offered up prayers for the success of their pilgrimages.

Another council is afterwards stated to have been convened at Beccanceld, in 798, by Archbishop Athelard, at which Kenulph, king of Mercia, presided. Both of these, however, are supposed by some writers to have been spurious, the latter especially; while the former was so accounted by the late Archbishop Wake, as may be seen in his Treatise on the State of the Church.

Under the description of Lenham and Newington, mention has already been made of the *Roman station*, called *Durolevum*, lying on the road from London to Dover, according to the opinions of several learned antiquaries. The Continuator of Camden is the only publication we have seen wherein it is conjectured to have been at Bapchild, an assertion that writer founds on its distance, and the convenience of its situation, on the high road from Rochester to Canterbury, as well as in consequence of its having been a place of such note in the Saxon times as to have had a British council held there.

THE PARAMOUNT MANOR OF MILTON claims over this parish, as being within that hundred; *subordinate* to which is,

THE MANOR OF BAPCHILD COURT, anciently part of the possessions of the family of the Savage's, seated at Bobbing, in this neighbourhood, one of whom, Arnold, son of Sir Thomas Savage, died possessed of this estate in the 69th of King Edward III. He was succeeded by his son and heir, Sir Arnold Savage, of Bobbing, who died in the 12th of Henry IV., leaving one son, Arnold, and a daughter, Elizabeth, who, on her brother's death, became his heir, being wife at that time of William Clifford, esq., who became entitled to this manor among the rest of her inheritance. In his descendants it continued till Henry Clifford, esq. of Bobbing, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, alienated this manor to William Coring, who not long afterwards passed it away by sale to Mr. John Bix, of Linsted, who afterwards resided at Bapchild court, having borne for his arms, *Vairy, argent, and azure.* In his descendants this manor continued down to William Bix, who sold it to one Larkham, whose son, the Rev. William Larkham, of Richmond, about the year 1757, alienated it to Mr. Thomas Matchin, of London. His widow afterwards possessed the estate, which ultimately became the property of John Fuller, esq., who built a new mansion, where he resided. There is no court held for this manor, nor has there been any for a series of years.

MORRIS COURT is a manor lying at a small distance eastward from that last mentioned, formerly the property of a family of the same name, which appears to have been extinct before the reign of Henry IV. The property was then alienated to one Brown, and at the latter end of the reign of Henry VI., was in the possession of Sir Thomas Browne, treasurer of the king's household, who married Eleanor, daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas Fitzalan, or Arundel, brother of John Fitzalan, earl of Arundel, with whom he possessed the castle of Beechworth, in Surrey. He had by her five sons, of whom, Sir George, the eldest, was of Beechworth castle, and inherited this manor.

In the 1st of Richard III., he fell under the displeasure of the king, and a proclamation was issued for his apprehension, for having aided the rebellious duke of Buckingham, when an Act passing for his attainder, his estates were in consequence confiscated to the crown, and a commission granted to one Roulande Machelle to take possession of the manor of Morise, in the parish of Babechilde, late belonging to Sir George Browne, attainted, who died before the end of that reign, as, in the 1st of Henry VII., another Act passed for the restoration of his heirs, both in blood and estates.

How long this manor continued in his descendants we have not found, but it was most probably alienated, in the reign of Elizabeth, by Sir Thomas Browne, of Beechworth castle, to one Wolgate, of a family which had been seated at Wolgate, now called Wilgate green, in Throwley, for some generations. From that name it passed to the Kempe's, and thence to Thomas Tilghman, descended from a younger branch of those of Snodland, in this county. He soon after sold it to Mr. Caslock, of Faversham, who, as well as his father, had been mayor of the town. In the grant of arms made to him by William Segar, esq., Garter, dated 1614, his name is written Castlelocke; it being also stated in the said instrument that his ancestors came into Kent on account of their uncle, who was lord abbot of Faversham. From him this manor was sold to Mr. Robert Master, gent., descended of ancestors who had for several generations been inhabitants of the same town, and bore for their arms, *Argent on a bend; between two cotizes, sable, a lion passant, guardant of the field, crowned or.* He passed it away to Mr. John Knowler, of Faversham, in whose descendants it continued down to John

Knowler, esq., recorder of Canterbury, steward of the town of Faversham, and barrister at law. He died possessed of this estate in 1763, leaving by his wife two daughters, his coheirs, of whom Anne, the eldest, married Henry Penton, esq. of Winchester; and Mary, the youngest, Henry lord Digby; when they joined in the conveyance of this estate to Mr. Thomas Gascoigne, who afterwards resided there.

PETTS COURT, anciently called *Potts court*, is another manor in this parish, the mansion of which has been long since in ruins. It was part of the possessions of the priory of Dartford, and is inserted in the list of its revenues in a writ *ad quod damorum* brought against the prioress in the 11th of Edward IV. In that situation the manor remained till the dissolution of the priory, in the reign of Henry VIII., when it was surrendered into the hands of the king, with all its lands and possessions; after which, the property remained in the crown till the reign of Edward VI., who granted it, among other premises, to Sir Thomas Cheney, treasurer of his household, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service. His only son and heir, Henry Cheney, of Todington, together with Jane, his wife, alienated it, with the wood called *Lord's Wood*, in Milsted, to Richard Thornhill, grocer and citizen of London.

Subsequent to the above period, Sir Henry Cheney, then lord Cheney, granted and made over to him all liberties, franchises, royalties, and other privileges, within this manor, which were claimed by Mr. Thornhill; when judgment was given for him by the barons of the Exchequer, on a trial held in Michaelmas Term, in the 17th year of that reign.

In his descendants this estate continued down to Richard Thornhill, esq. of Ollantigh, who, in the 4th of Queen Anne, A.D. 1704, sold it to Jacob Sawbridge, of London, late one of the directors of the South Sea Company, who died in 1748, when his great grandson, Samuel Elias Sawbridge, esq. of Ollantigh, in this county, ultimately possessed the property. The house appertaining to this manor having been long in ruins, the barns and lands were for some years let with Radfield adjoining.

RADFIELD is a hamlet in this parish, lying on the high Dover road, about half a mile distant, eastward, from the village of Bapchild. The principal estate was, in the reign of Henry II.,

part of the possessions of Adam de Tanges, who gave a moiety of the same to the brethren of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.

Gamerius de Neapoli, prior of that hospital, with the consent of his chapter, by deed in 1190, under their common seal, granted to Turstan de Bakechild and his heirs, their lands in Kent, given to them as before mentioned, together with the whole service of their tenants residing there, and all its appurtenances, which Roger de Wurmedal held at the annual rent of six marks and a half of silver, for all services belonging to the same; and further, that he and his heirs should maintain one chaplain and a priest, who, on each Sunday, were to celebrate mass, and preserve the edifices built at this chapel in a proper state, for the reception of him and his brethren, when they made a progress into Kent, with liberty of re-entry on non-payment.

How this estate passed afterwards we do not find, but it was in later times part of the possessions of the Thornhill's, from which family it passed in the same manner as Petts court, before mentioned, from Richard Thornhill, esq. to Jacob Sawbridge, esq. of London, whose great grandson afterwards possessed the property.

THE FREE CHAPEL, previously mentioned, appears to have continued as such till the general suppression of similar religious endowments, by the Acts passed in the 37th of Henry VIII. and under Edward VI. In the latter of those reigns, on a survey taken, the return was, that the chapel had fallen down, that the founder was not known, and that the revenue consisted of a tenement, and two pieces of land in Bapchild, then worth forty-two shillings per annum, beyond reprises; all of which were sold by the general surveyors of the court of Augmentation, in the 2d year of that reign, to Thomas Grene, esq. It then passed to one Bix, and from that name to a Bateman, John Bateman having owned it in the reign of James I., who was succeeded by his son of the same name, and he by will devised it to Mr. John Bateman, of Wormesell, who possessed it at the restoration of Charles II., since which time the property has been alienated to the family of the May's, where it continued.

BAPCHILD is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Sittingbourne. The

church, dedicated to St. Lawrence, is a small building, which from the size of the capitals of the pillars, and other parts, appears to be of some antiquity. It consists of two aisles and two chancels; in that to the south is a brass plate commemorative of John Kendall and Margaret his wife, A.D. 1529. The northern chancel, which formerly belonged to Bapchild court, has been deserted by its owners for many years, being now repaired at the expense of the parish. The steeple, which stands at the south side of the church, has a tall spire covered with shingles.

It appears by the *Testa de Nevill*, that in the time of Richard I. this church was part of the possessions of the crown, and given by that king to one Master Oliver, what interest he had therein, or how long he continued possessed of it, is not mentioned; but King John, in his 5th year, at the instance of Simon de Wells, granted to the church of Chichester, and him and his successors, bishops of Chichester, this church, which was of his gift, with the lands and woods, and all other appurtenances, to hold in free, pure, and perpetual alms, for the endowment of that church, as he had promised at the dedication of the same.

After that period it seems to have been allotted to the portion of the revenue of this church, intended for the maintenance of the dean and chapter of Chichester, to whom the church of Bapchild was appropriated by Archbishop Weathershed, in 1229. They remained owners of the parsonage, and the advowson of the vicarage, the former of which was demised by them on lease from time to time, but the latter they reserved to themselves.

In 1640 this vicarage was valued at £50 per annum, the communicants being sixty-five, but in the reign of Queen Anne the communicants amounted to eighty-two.

It was subsequently a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly value of £27, the yearly tenths being 16s.

This vicarage was augmented by Queen Anne's Bounty, with which donation some lands in this parish were purchased.

In 1821 there were sixty dwellings in the parish of Bapchild; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 160, females 147, making a total of 307 souls.

TONG is the next parish lying northward from Bapchild, called in the Saxon language *Thwang*, having derived its name from the following ancient tradition.

After the arrival of the Saxons in this kingdom, and their victory over the Scots and Picts, at Stamford, in Lincolnshire, Vortigern, king of Britain, being highly satisfied with the conduct of the two Saxon chiefs, Hengist and Horsa, expressed himself very desirous of rewarding them for their services, when Hengist requested, as a pledge of the king's favor, only as much land as an ox hide could encompass, which being readily granted, he cut the whole hide into small thongs, and enclosed within them a space of ground large enough to contain a castle, which he accordingly built thereon, and thence named it *Thwang Caestre*, that is Thong castle, from which this parish bore its appellation.

Writers differ much in the situation of this land; Camden, and some others, place it at Thong castle, near Grimsby, in Lincolnshire, others at Doncaster, while Leland, Kilburne, and Philipott, fix it here, giving the same old traditionary tale to each of those places, which rather throws a doubt on the whole; indeed, it appears but an imitation of Virgil's story of Dido's building of Byrsa, Æneid, i. l. 369, where, speaking of that queen, and her companions, the poet says:

> "They came where now you see new Carthage rise,
> And yon proud citadel invade the skies,
> The wand'ring exiles bought a space of ground,
> Which one bull-hide enclosed and compassed round,
> Hence Byrsa named."

This castle was most conveniently situated for the purposes of Hengist, close to the great high road on the one side, and not far distant from the water called *the Swale* on the other, through which, it is supposed, the usual passage was for the shipping between the main land and the Isle of Shepey, in former times.

At this castle, Hengist, some years afterwards, led on by his unbounded ambition, resolved to attain, by fraud and treachery, that which he could not accomplish by force of arms. Accordingly, as a good understanding subsisted between the Britons and the Saxons, he invited Vortigern, the British king, to a splendid entertainment at this castle, who, unsuspicious of treachery, attended the summons, accompanied by 300 of his

chief nobility, unarmed, all of whom, with the exception of Vortigern, towards the end of the feast, were perfidiously massacred by the Saxons. The British prince was detained prisoner, and forced, as a ransom for his liberty, to surrender up to the Saxons a large tract of land, which Hengist added to his former territories. This happened in the year 461, when Vortigern being set at liberty, retired into Wales. It was also at a feast held at this castle in 450, that the story is told of Vortigern having become so enamoured with the beauty of Rowena, daughter of Hengist, that after repudiating his wife, he married her, and gave up to Hengist the sovereignty of Kent. That the marriage did take place is very certain, but the story of the king falling in love with her at such a feast, and the other additional circumstances, are not so worthy of credit; indeed Bede and Gildas mention nothing of the kind, and Malmsbury states it only as report.

The high Dover road crosses the centre of this parish, at the eastern boundary of Bapchild, just beyond Radfield. It extends on the southern side as far as Kingsdown, in which part of the parish are the estates of Newbarrow and Scuddington, with part of Wood street; on the northern side it extends to the marshes, which are circumscribed by the waters of the Swale, flowing between the main land and the Isle of Elmley, in Shepey. It contains about 1300 acres of land, of which not more than ten, in the southern part, consist of wood. That portion of the parish on the northern side of the road is a flat and low country, almost on a level with the marshes, and equally as unhealthy as Bapchild, lying lower, and rather more exposed to the damp vapours; the lands are however exceedingly fertile for corn, consisting of the same kind of round tilt land, which extends along this plain. There is no village, the church standing about a mile northward from the road. The site of the old castle is only three fields from the north side of the same, and visible from this spot. It consists of a high mount, containing about half an acre of ground, thrown up from a broad and deep moat, which surrounds it, whereof the north-west part is nearly dry, but the springs that rise on the south-west side, which formerly supplied the whole, now direct their course into a very large pond on the eastern side of the moat, producing such a plentiful supply of water, as to afford sufficient to turn a corn-mill

belonging to the lord of the manor, whence the current runs northward into the Swale. A large cutlass sword, with a buck-horn handle, was dug up within the site of this castle many years back.

There was formerly *an hospital* in this parish. Leland says, "there was a *poor hospital* a mile beyond Sittingbourne, called *Pokeshaulle*." Henry VII. gave it to his physician, Linacre, who left it to his son; it is now quite down. We conceive this to be the same house mentioned in the Harleian MSS., where there is a commission, signed by Richard III. in his 1st year, for suffering Arnold Childre to occupy the *almoux* house, beside Sittingbourne, which the king had given to him for life. Queen Mary, in her 4th year, granted this hospital of St. James's, of Puckleshall, late in the tenure of Richard Newton, to Sir John Parrot.

There was formerly a family of some note here which derived its name from this parish. Semanus At Tong was so eminent a man, that in the reign of Richard II. he lent the king £20, being no small sum in those days. He possessed lands at Bredgar, Tonstall, and other places in this neighbourhood, and elsewhere, as well as at Bredgar, and his descendants remained there down to a late period.

THE CASTLE OF TONG most probably fell to ruins during the time of the Saxon heptarchy, and with the MANOR belonging thereto, came in that situation into the hands of the Conqueror, who gave both to Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands they were entered in Domesday record.

Upon the disgrace of that prelate they were held by Hugh de Port, who became the immediate tenant of the king, being held by him as two knight's fees, parcel of the fourteen knight's fees and a quarter, all but two of which lay in this county, making together the barony of Port, being held by barony of the castle of Dover, by the service of performing ward there, for the defence of that fortress. Of his descendant, John de St. John, this manor was again held in the reign of Edward I., by Ralph Fitzbernard, who died in the same reign, leaving a son Thomas, who died, and a daughter Margaret, married to Guncelin de Badlesmere, whose son Bartholomew at length succeeded to this manor and castle, as part of the inheritance of his mother.

He was a man much in favor with Edward II., but afterwards executed for rebellion, the particulars of which have been previously related, but in the reign of Edward III. the process and judgment having been reversed, the manor of Tong, among others, was restored to his son, Giles de Badlesmere, who died in that reign, when his four sisters becoming his coheirs, upon a partition of their inheritance, this manor fell to the share of his third sister, Elizabeth, then wife of William Bohun, earl of Northampton, who in her right possessed it by the same service, as above mentioned.

Though he left issue by her, this manor did not descend to them, but to the children of her first husband, Edmund Mortimer, by whom she had one son Roger, who in the 28th of that reign, obtained a reversal in Parliament of the judgment given against his grandfather, Roger, earl of March, as erroneous and void, upon which he thenceforth bore the title of earl of March.

His son and heir, Edmund Mortimer, earl of March, died possessed of this estate in the reign of Richard II., holding the toft of the castle of Tong, together with the castle annexed to the said toft, with the manor appurtenant, held of the king *in capite*, as of his castle of Dover, by the same service as before mentioned. At length his descendant, Roger, earl of March, dying under Henry VI., Richard, duke of York, son of Anne, his sister, was found to be his next heir, and consequently possessed this estate. After that period, in endeavouring to uphold the title of the house of York to the crown, he was slain at the battle of Wakefield, in the reign of Henry VI., being then possessed of the manor of Tong, as was found by the inquisition, which, from the confusion of those times, was not taken till the 3d of Edward IV., when the king was found to be his eldest son and next heir.

Notwithstanding the duke of York is said by the above-mentioned inquisition to have died possessed of this manor, yet the year before his death, an attainder had passed against him and others, with the forfeiture of all their hereditaments in fee, or fee tail; upon which this manor was granted by Henry VI. to Thomas Browne, esq. of Beechworth castle, afterwards knighted and made comptroller and treasurer of the king's household. He also obtained a grant of a fair at his manor, to be held

annually on St. James's day, and another for liberty to embattle his castle, and enclose his lands in a park. His eldest son, Sir George Browne, in the 11th of Edward IV., surrendered all his right and title in this manor to Cicely, duchess of York, the king's mother, who died in the reign of Henry VII. upon which it passed to the crown, where it continued till Edward VI. granted it to Sir Ralph Fane, afterwards created a banneret for his signal services at the battle of Musselburgh, in Scotland, to hold *in capite* by knight's service.

He soon afterwards alienated this manor to Sir Rowland Clerke, when the latter, in the reign of Philip and Mary, passed it to Solomon Wilkins, who was succeeded by his son David, then residing at Bex, or Bexle court, in this parish, an estate which had formerly belonged to the Nottingham's, of Bayford, in Sittingbourne. That family alienated the manor, with the site of the castle, to William Pordage, of Rodmersham, who also purchased some lands that had formerly belonged to this manor, and in his descendants it continued until sold to the family of the Iles, by a daughter of which name it went in marriage to one Hazard, whose son Richard died in 1784, when it passed to the name of Shard, when William Shard, esq. owned it in 1791. Since that period it was sold to Richard Seath, esq. of this parish, who became the proprietor of the site of this castle, with the manor annexed. A court-baron is held for this manor.

Cheek's Court is situated in this parish, though great part of the estate belonging thereto lies in the adjoining district of Murston. It was anciently written *Chick's court*, once the property and residence of a family called At Cheek, and sometimes De Cheeksell, as appears from ancient deeds; but, in the reign of Edward II. William de Ore had become entitled to this property, with whom it did not long remain, as in the 9th of the above reign Fulk Peyforer, who had been knight of the shire for this county in the 6th year of that prince, died possessed of the estate.

From the name of Peyforer it passed to that of Potyn, one of which family possessed it in the reign of Richard II., and left an only daughter Juliana, who carried it in marriage to Thomas St. Leger, second son of Sir Ralph, of Ulcomb, who afterwards resided in her right at Otterden, and was sheriff under Richard II.

He left an only daughter Joan, who, marrying Henry Aucher, esq. of Newenden, entitled her husband to the possession of the same. She survived him, and afterwards married Robert Capys, to whom Henry Aucher, esq., her only son and heir, by her first husband, in the 19th of Henry VI. confirmed a life estate in Cheek's court, Elmley, and other parts of her former inheritance. He, upon her death, became possessed of this estate, and then sold the manor to Sir William Cromer, of Tunstall, sheriff in the 2d of James I., who alienated this estate to Mr. Christopher Allen. His descendant, the Rev. Thomas Allen, rector of Murston, died possessed of it in 1732, and devised it by will to his cousin, Mrs. Finch Allen, married, first to the Rev. Mr. Mills, and secondly to Thomas Hooper, gent. of Stockbury. Walter, the eldest son, became possessed of this estate on his father's death, and left two daughters coheirs; Sarah, married first to one Steed, and secondly to William Hugesson, esq. of Stodmarsh, and Dorothy, who married Mr. Robert Radcliffe, when they entitled their respective husbands to this estate. At length William Hugesson, esq., about the year 1764, purchased the other part, and consequently became possessor of the whole.

NEWBURGH, commonly called *Newbarrow*, is another estate in the southern part of this parish, adjoining Linsted, formerly accounted a manor, which however has long lost that name. It was anciently owned by a family which thence derived its surname, after which it passed into the possession of the family of the Apulderfield's, whose ancient seat was at Challock, in this county.

Henry de Apulderfield died possessed of the estate in the reign of Edward I., in whose descendants it continued down to William Apulderfield, esq., who died in the reign of Henry VI., leaving two daughters his coheirs, one of whom, Elizabeth, carried this estate in marriage to Sir John Phineux, chief justice of the King's Bench, and he also leaving only daughters coheirs, one of them, Jane, entitled her husband, John Roper, esq. of Eltham, to the possession of this property. He was attorney-general to Henry VIII., and died in 1524, leaving two sons and several daughters, when William succeeded him at Eltham, and Christopher was of Lodge, in the parish of Linsted, and inherited this estate. His son, Sir John Roper, was created Lord

Teynham, and died in 1618 possessed of this estate, which continued in his descendants till Henry Roper, lord Teynham, in 1766, alienated it to Mr. William Chamberlain, gent., of London.

Tong is within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sittingbourne. The church, dedicated to St. Giles, consists of one large, and two narrow side aisles, having a tower steeple at the south side. It was given by Edward I. to the abbey of West Langdon, to which it was appropriated by Archbishop Walter Reynolds, in 1325, and continued part of the possessions of that monastery till the dissolution under Henry VIII., when it passed to the crown, where it did not long remain, as that king granted it to the archbishop of Canterbury, in exchange for other premises.

The vicarage was valued in the king's books at £8 6 8, the yearly tenths being 16s. 8d., and the yearly certified value £55 3 0.

In 1640 the estimate was £50, the communicants being seventy-five.

In 1661 Archbishop Juxon augmented this vicarage, conformably with the king's letters of recommendation, in the sum of £10 per annum, out of the great tithes.

In 1821 there were twenty-nine dwellings in the parish of Tong; and, at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 122, females 94, making a total of 216 souls.

Murston lies the next parish westward from Tong, usually called *Muston*, deriving its name from being in the vicinity of the marshes.

This parish is for the most part situated on the north side of the Dover road, to the left of the hill beyond Sittingbourne, only a very small part extending southward of the road, near the boundaries of which is the parsonage. It extends northward across the marshes and Salts, as far as the waters of the Swale, which separate the main land from the isle of Sheppey. The village is situated midway between the London road and the marshes, the church and court lodge being at no great distance. The parish contains about 1000 acres of land, of which

thirty are wood. The situation is very disagreeable and unhealthy, even in the highest grounds, but the larger portion lying so exceedingly low and watery, enveloped by creeks, marshes, and salts, the air is much impregnated with fogs, which emit a very noxious effluvia, while in winter they uniformly prevail, hovering over the lands, three or four feet in height, which, combined with the badness of the water, occasion very severe agues, and cause the complexions of the inhabitants to become of a dingy yellow colour, so that, if they survive, they are frequently afflicted for several years, wherefore it is not unusual to see a poor man, with his wife and family, all hovering over the fire, afflicted with ague, at the same time. Dr. Plot remarks, that seldom any natives, though born on the spot, live to the age of twenty-one years. This character of unhealthiness extends to the neighbouring parishes on the northern side of the road, the malady not being peculiar to the county, as all other parts of the kingdom situated near marshes, are subject to the same fatality. The lands in this parish, like those of Tong and Bapchild, are very rich and fertile for corn and hops, and was it not for such a prospect of gain, and the high wages given for the hazard of life itself, this tract would probably be deserted of inhabitants.

In Frid wood, southward of Murston parsonage, and in the neighbourhood of Faversham, there are several hollow caves dug in the ground, resembling those at Crayford, which appear to have been hiding places in the time of the Saxons, wherein the inhabitants secured their wives and children from the ravages and cruelty of their enemies.

A small part of this parish, consisting of several acres of arable and wood land, lies at some distance from the rest, entirely surrounded by the parish of Luddenham, several other parishes intervening; it seems formerly to have been of considerable account, and in ancient records is mentioned by the name of the manor of Herst hall, in Herst, that part lying in Bizing wood belonging to the glebe of this rectory.

This manor, with the other estates of the bishop of Bayeux, became confiscated to the crown, when William the Conqueror granted it to Hugh de Port, who held it of the king *in capite*, by barony, as of the castle of Dover, by the tenure of castle-guard, for the defence of that fortress. Of

him and his descendants, the St. John's, this manor was again held by a family which derived its name from their residence here. Bartholomew de Murston stands recorded in the list of those Kentish gentlemen who assisted King Richard I. at the siege of Ascalon, and his descendant, John de Murston, held it in the reign of Edward III., in the 20th year of which prince; he paid aid for it as one knight's fee.

Before the end of the reign of Richard II. this family had become extinct, when Walter lord Fitzwalter was the possessor, whose descendant, lord Fitzwalter, likewise held it in the reign of Henry VI., having borne for his arms, *Or, a fess between two chevrons gules.* He alienated this manor to Sir William Cromer, lord mayor in 1413 and 1423, and died possessed of it in 1433. After that period, this manor continued in his descendants in like manner as Tunstall, before described, till it passed with that estate, by a female coheir, in marriage to John, eldest son of Sir Edward Hales, of Tenterden, knight and baronet. In his descendants it continued down to Sir Edward Hales, bart. of St. Stephen's, near Canterbury, who sold it, some few years after, to Rebecca, widow of Sir Roger Twisden, bart. of Bradbourn, who thus became possessor of this property.

EAST HALL is an estate in this parish, once accounted a manor, which was in early times possessed by a family that assumed its surname from the estate. Joan de Easthall is recorded in the ledger-book of Davington priory as having been a good benefactor to the nuns there in the reign of King Henry III., when that name having become extinct, it fell into the possession of the De la Pine's, who bore for their arms, *Sable, three pineapples or.* One of that race, James de la Pine, was sheriff in the 26th of Edward III., and died possessed of this manor in the 37th year of that reign, then holding it of the king *in capite,* by the tenth part of one knight's fee.

His son and heir, Thomas de la Pine, in the reign of Richard II., conveyed this manor to Thomas St. Leger, second son of Sir Ralph St. Leger, of Ulcomb, who resided at Otterden. He left a daughter, Joan, married to Henry Aucher, esq. of Newenden, who entitled him to the possession of this estate, and she surviving him, afterwards married Robert Capys, when Henry Aucher, her son by her first husband, confirmed to her

a life estate in this manor, as he had done by others, as previously mentioned.

From him the property passed to the name of Eveas, as Humphrey Eveas was found to die possessed of the manor of East hall in the reign of Henry VI., as did his son, John Eveas, in the 4th of Henry VII., who was buried, with his wife, in the north chancel of the church. His wife, Mildred, seems to have survived him, who afterwards married Lewis Clifford, esq. of Bobbing; and she died in the 20th of Henry VII., possessed of this manor, with its appurtenances in the parishes of Murston, Tong, Bapchild, and Elmeley, held *in capite*, by knight's service. At length, her grandson, Humphrey Eveas, dying in the 27th of Henry VIII., left four daughters his coheirs, one of whom, Alicia, carried it in marriage to Thomas Hales, whose son, Christopher, in the 5th of Edward VI., alienated it to Sir Anthony Aucher, of Otterden. He passed it by sale to Thomas Gardyner, who, in the 10th of Elizabeth, transmitted it by sale to Mr. John Norden; when the latter, in the 17th year of that reign, levied a fine, and afterwards alienated the property to William Pordage, esq. of Rodmersham; in whose descendants it remained till ultimately carried in marriage by a daughter to one Hazard, thence to the name of Shard, and again to that of Seath, in which it continued.

MERE COURT is an estate in this parish, once esteemed a capital mansion, which seems to have been so named from its low and damp situation, near the marshes, as it does not appear to have had any owners of that name.

Thomas Abelyn held this manor in the reign of Edward I., in the 4th year of which prince he died, holding it of the king *in capite*, when his grandson, Thomas Abelyn, at length succeeded, and left his widow, Isolda, surviving, who married Henry de Apulderfield, which union being without the consent of the king, he paid his fine, and took possession of the lands of his wife, as well here as elsewhere.

This manor afterwards went into the possession of the family of the Savage's, of Bobbing, one of whom, Sir Arnold Savage, died possessed of the estate in the reign of Edward III., A.D. 1374. His grandson, of the same name, dying, his sister, Eleanor, became his heir, who marrying William Clifford, esq., she entitled him to this estate, with the rest of her inheritance.

In his descendants it remained till alienated to the Croft's, whose descendant, Mr. Daniel Croft, died in the reign of Elizabeth, leaving one son, John, and two daughters, Helen and Margaret, who, upon the death of their brother, an idiot, became joint heirs of this estate, and sold it, in that reign, to Mr. Stephen Hulks. His descendant, Nathaniel, dying without issue male, devised it by will to his two daughters, Mary and Anne, the former of whom carried her part in marriage to Mr. John Austen, of St. Martin's hill, near Canterbury, who died possessed of it in 1770. She survived her husband, and again became entitled to this share of Mere court, and by the death of her sister, Anne, unmarried, to her share also, of which she died possessed in 1781, when it was subsequently sold by her heirs to Mr. John Lemmey, who resided there.

MURSTON is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sittingbourne. The church, dedicated to All Saints, is a large building, containing three aisles and the same number of chancels, having a square tower, surmounted by a wooden turret.

It was valued in the king's books at £10 14 2, the yearly tenths being £1 1; the subsequent value being computed at £260 per annum. In 1578, there were forty-two communicants and ten houses in this parish.

In 1821, there were twenty dwellings in the parish of Murston; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 74, females 67, making a total of 141 souls.

The next parish westward from Murston is SITTINGBOURNE, anciently written *Sedingbourne*, in Saxon *Sœdingburna*, that is, the hamlet by the bourn or small stream.

The parish and town of Sittingbourne is situated about forty miles from London, the high road hence to Dover traversing the same. The parish is rather above the level of the marshes that bound the northern side, from which the ground rises to the town. The situation is damp, and, on account of the air and water, is rather unhealthy; notwithstanding which, it is populous and cheerful. From the town the ground keeps rising, southward, till it joins Tunstall, on the road to which place,

about a quarter of a mile distant, is a good modern house, called Glover's, once possessed by Thomas Bannister, esq., who resided therein, which, in 1791, became the property of his widow. Eastward, about the same distance, are the estates of Chilston, Fulston, and Hysted Tunstall, with Golden wood, at the boundary of the parish, part of which is within the same, adjoining Bapchild and Rodmersham. The parish, which is small, contains little more than 800 acres of land, consisting of arable, pasture, orchards, hop grounds, and woods. In the upper and western parts the soil is much inclined to chalk and thin land, but the rest is, in general, a fertile loam, especially about the town, which was formerly surrounded by orchards of apples and cherries, many having been destroyed to make room for plantations of hops, which are not, however, so numerous as formerly. Northward of the town the grounds are appropriated to pasturage; and at a small distance is a quay, called Crown quay, of great use to this part of the country, in facilitating the export of corn and wool, and relanding the various commodities from London and elsewhere. At a small distance north-west from the town is Bayford court.

It appears by a survey made in the 8th of Queen Elizabeth, that there was then in this parish eighty-eight inhabited houses, two quays, Crown and Haldredge quays, with three ships and boats, two of one ton, and one of twenty-four tons.

The town of Sittingbourne is built on either side of the high road, at the fortieth milestone from London, standing on a descent towards the east. It is a wide long street, unpaved, the houses being mostly modern, well built of brick, and sashed, the whole wearing a cheerful aspect. The principal support of this place has always been derived from the inns and houses of reception for travellers, of which there are several.

The inhabitants are particularly proud, in consequence of John Northwood, esq. of Northwood, having entertained Henry V. on his triumphant return from France, at the Red Lion inn, in this town, which still bears the same sign; and though the entertainment was plentiful and befitting the royalty of his guest, such was the difference of the times, that the whole expense amounted only to 9s. 9d., wine being then sold at 2d. per pint, and other articles in proportion. About the centre of the opposite side of the town is a good family seat, once the residence of

the Tomlyn's, and afterwards of the family of the Lushington's, several of whom lie buried in this church. At length, Thomas Godfrey Lushington left this mansion to reside at Canterbury, and his second son, the Rev. James Stephen Lushington, becoming possessed of the same, sold it to Mr. John May, who afterwards resided therein for some years, when it was converted into an inn. At this house, while in the possession of the Lushington's, Kings George I. and II. constantly lodged, whensoever they travelled through the town, on their way to and from their German dominions.

The church and vicarage stand almost at the east end of the town, near which rises a clear spring of water, on the high road, that flows thence, northward, into Milton creek.

Queen Elizabeth by a charter, in her 16th year, incorporated the town of Sittingbourne by the name of a *Guardian, and free tenants thereof*, and granted a market, weekly, and two annual fairs, with many other privileges; which charter was acted upon for several years, until that queen was further pleased to grant another more ample document in her 41st year, whereby she incorporated this place by the name of a mayor and jurats, and regranted the market and fairs, with the addition of a great number of privileges, and among others, returning two members to Parliament.

This charter, however, does not appear ever to have been acted upon, or the privileges exercised; the market, after having been used for several years, has been dropped, and the two yearly fairs only kept up.

Lewis Theobald, the poet, rendered famous by Mr. Pope in his Dunciad, was born at Sittingbourne, his father having been an attorney of this place.

Some few of our antiquaries are inclined to fix the Roman station, called *Durolevum*, at or near Sittingbourne, among whom are Mr. Talbot, Dr. Horsley, Baxter, and Dr. Stukeley, in his commentary upon his favorite, Richard of Cirencester; but they have little to offer in support of their conjectures, except the distances recorded in one or two copies, which, however, are so different in many, that there is no trusting to the same; consequently, every writer has altered them to suit his own hypothesis.

In 893, the Danes having fitted out a number of ships, with

the intention of ravaging the coasts of this kingdom, divided their vessels into two fleets, with one of which they sailed up the river Limene or Rother, and with the other, under the command of Hastings, their captain, entered the mouth of the river Thames, and landed at the neighbouring town of Milton, near which they built a castle, at a place called Kemsley down, whence, about a quarter of a mile to the north-east, the church of Milton now stands, which, being overgrown with bushes, acquired the name of *Castle Rough*. King Alfred, on receiving intelligence of their depredations, marched his forces towards Kent, and in order to put an end to those incursions, built a fortification about a mile from the Danish intrenchments, a small part of which stonework was to be traced some time back at *Bayford castle*, in this parish.

The manor of Milton is paramount over this parish; *subordinate* to which is,

The manor of Goodneston, perhaps so called from its having been the property of Goodwyne earl of Kent, who secured himself at Bayford castle in 1052, when having taken up arms against Edward the Confessor, he raised forces, and ravaged the possessions of the king, whereof the town of Milton constituted a part, which he burnt to the ground.

On his death, it most probably devolved to his son, King Harold, and after the battle of Hastings, to the crown, whence it seems to have been granted to the eminent family of the Leyborne's, William, son of Roger, having died possessed of this property in the 3d of Edward II. His granddaughter, Juliana, succeeded, and entitled her husbands successively to this estate, and in default of all heirs, either lineal or collateral, the manor, among the rest of her possessions, escheated to the crown, and was granted to Robert de Nottingham, who resided at a seat adjoining, called

Bayford castle, where his ancestors had resided for several generations. Robert de Nottingham lived here in the reign of Edward I., who dates several deeds from this castle. Robert, his successor, possessed the manor of Goodneston, who was sheriff in the 48th of Edward III., and bore for his arms, *Paly wavy of two pieces, gules and argent*, in which year he died, and was found possessed of lands at Sharsted, Pedding in Tenham, Newland, La Hirst, Higham in Milsted, Bixle, now

called Bix in Tong, and lastly, Goodneston, with Bayfor in Sittingbourne; all of which descended to his only son, John Nottingham, who died without issue male, leaving Eleanor, his daughter, his sole heir. She marrying Simon Cheney, of Crall, in Sussex, second son of Sir Richard Cheney, of Shurland, became in her right entitled to this estate, and his grandson, Humphrey Cheney, alienated both Goodneston and Bayford, in the reign of Henry VI., to Mr. Richard Lovelace, of Queenhythe, in London.

His son, Lancelot, was of Bayford, and purchased the manor of Hever, in Kingsdown, near Farningham; under which, a more ample account of him and his descendants may be seen. His second son, William, heir to his eldest brother, Sir Richard, who died, at length became possessed of Goodneston, with Bayford, at which place he resided; and dying under Henry VII., left two sons, John and William Lovelace, esqs., who possessed this manor and seat between them. The former resided at Bayford, where he died in the 2d of Edward VI., holding the moiety of this manor *in capite*, by knight's service; and leaving seven sons; Thomas Lovelace, the eldest, inherited his interest in this manor and seat. He procured the *disgavelment* of his lands, and, in the 10th of Elizabeth, together with his cousin, William Lovelace, by a joint conveyance, alienated Goodneston, with Bayford, to Mr. Ralph Finch, of Kingsdown, in this neighbourhood; whose son, Mr. Thomas Finch, of that place, passed it away by sale to Sir William Garrard, who was lord mayor in 1555, and whose ancestors had been of this parish for several generations.

He died in 1571, and was buried in St. Magnus's church, in London, having borne for his arms, *Argent on a fess, sable, a lion passant of the field.* After that period, it descended to his grandson, Sir John Garrard, or Gerrard, as they afterwards spelt their name, who was of Wethamsted, in Hertfordshire, and created a baronet in 1621. He was succeeded therein by his eldest son, of the same name, at which time Bayford was become no more than a farm-house, being called Bayford farm.

He died in 1700, leaving an only daughter and heir, Mary, who carried the manor of Goodneston, with Bayford, in marriage to Montague Drake, esq. of Shardeloes, in Buckinghamshire, who bore for his arms, *Argent, a wivern with wings displayed, and*

tail mowed, gules. In his descendants the estate continued down to William Drake, esq., M.P. for Agmondesham, in Buckinghamshire, who died possessed of this estate in 1796, when his heirs became possessed of the same.

A court-baron is held for the manor of Goodneston, with Bayford.

CHILTON is a manor situated in the south-east part of this parish, formerly accounted a manor, having had owners of that name, who held the manor of Chilton, in Ash, near Sandwich, both of which William de Chilton held at his death, in the reign of Edward I. One of his descendants, under Edward III., passed it away to a Corbie, whose descendant, Robert, of Boughton Malherbe, died possessed of the manor of Chilton, or Childeston, in the 39th year of that reign. It then passed by a female heir of that name, in like manner as Boughton Malherbe, to the family of the Wotton's; and thence to the Stanhope's; in which name it continued till Philip earl of Chesterfield, about the year 1725, alienated it to Richard Harvey, esq. of Dane court, whose grandson, the Rev. Richard Harvey, died possessed of it in 1772, leaving his widow surviving; since which it was sold to one Balduck, and by him to Mr. George Morrison, who afterwards resided there.

FULSTON, anciently called *Foggleton*, was a large mansion situated at a small distance southward from Chilton, last described, which, from the burials of the Garrard's in the chancel belonging to this estate, in Sittingbourne church, seems to have been the early residence of the family in this parish. The estate, however, in the reign of Henry VIII., was become the property of John Cromer, esq., third son of Sir James Cromer, of Tunstall, who died in 1539, leaving his three daughters coheirs; and in one of the windows of this church were the arms of John Cromer, esq. of Fulston, and his two wives, Guldeford and Grove, with their several quarterings.

Probably by his will, or former entail, on his dying without issue male, this seat descended to his nephew, Sir James Cromer, of Tunstall, whose grandson, of the same name, dying without issue male in 1613, Christian, one of his daughters and coheirs, carried it in marriage to Sir Edward Hales, of Tenterden, knight and baronet; and in his descendants it continued down to Sir Edward Hales, bart. of St. Stephen's, near

Canterbury. The greatest part of this mansion has been pulled down, and a neat farm-house erected on the ruins.

SITTINGBOURNE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sittingbourne. The church, dedicated to St. Michael, is a large handsome building, consisting of three aisles and two chancels, with two others across; while at the west end is a lofty beacon steeple, with a clock and a peal of six bells. On the octagon stone front are the arms of Archbishop Arundel, a shield bearing *a cross flory;* and another, with the *emblems of the crucifixion.*

This church was burnt to the ground in July 1762, occasioned by the carelessness of workmen, who had been repairing the leads. The following year a brief passed for rebuilding the fabric, which, from the contribution of the inhabitants, and a gift of £50 from Archbishop Secker, accomplished the undertaking. In the south cross chancel, belonging to the estate of Fulston, is a monument for Thomas Bannister, gent., obiit 1750, the arms being *Argent, a cross flory, sable.* A brass plate, bearing an inscription for John Cromer, of Fulston, and his two wives, being loose; there was found on the other side another memorial, in Latin, for Robert Rokell, esq., once dwelling with the most revered Lady Joan de Bohun, countess of Hereford and Northton, who died in 1421. This is an instance of economy which has been discovered at times in other churches.

In the south-east chancel, which belonged to the Chilton estate, there are several gravestones for the family of the Lushington's; whereof Dr. Lushington's monument was entirely destroyed at the time of the fire. In the upper part of this chancel is a vault belonging to the estate of Chilton, wherein is deposited only one coffin, being that containing the ashes of Mr. Harvey, who died in 1751.

The Archdeacon's court, in which he holds his visitation, is at the upper end of the chancel.

The coats of arms in the windows of the church, which were many of them destroyed by fire, have been since refitted with modern glass.

The middle chancel is that of the archbishop, and belongs to the parsonage; wherein is a memorial for Mathew, son of Sir John, and grandson of Archbishop Parker, who died in 1645;

the north chancel being used as a vestry. The north cross chancel belongs to the estate of Bayford; and on the north wall are the effigies of a woman lying at length in the hollow of the wall, with an arch, carved and ornamented, over her; and midway between the arch and the figure, a flat table-stone of Bethersden marble: the whole bears the appearance of great antiquity.

The church of Sittingbourne belonged to the Benedictine nunnery of Clerkenwell, to which it was appropriated before the 8th of Richard II., and remained part of the revenues until its dissolution, under the reign of Henry VIII. This church continued in the hands of the crown till Queen Elizabeth, in her 3d year, granted the parsonage, with the advowson of the vicarage, the former being then valued at £13 6 8, to Archbishop Parker. After that period, they continued parcel of the possessions of the archbishopric, and so remained.

In the 8th of Richard II. this parsonage was valued at £23 6 8. In 1578, on a survey of the diocese of Canterbury, it was returned that this parsonage was impropriate to the queen's majesty, the vicarage being also in her gift, when the dwelling-houses were eighty in number, the communicants 300, and the tenths 20s.

The vicarage was afterwards valued in the king's books at £10, the yearly tenths being £1. In 1640 it was valued at £56, when the communicants were 380.

The vicarage is situated not far from the north side of the churchyard, adjoining which is the only piece of glebe land belonging to the same.

In 1821, there were 294 dwellings in the parish of Sittingbourne; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 748, females 789, making a total of 1537 souls.

Milton, or more properly *Middleton,* is the next parish northwestward from Sittingbourne, last described, which seems to have derived its name from the Saxon, *Midletun,* a name denoting it situation in the middle part of this county.

The parish of Milton is mostly situated on low flat ground, and extends from the high London road as far as the waters of the Swale, northward; adjoining to which, the marshes in this

parish are both fresh and salt to a great extent. In the southern or upper part, nearest the London road, is a small hamlet, called from the soil Chalkwell, wherein are two modern houses; near which arise some springs that fill several large ponds, and the reservoirs for a corn-mill below; after which, they run along the eastern skirts of the town, presenting a continued swamp of watery bogs into the creek below. The town, anciently called the *King's town of Milton*, as being part of the ancient possessions of the crown, is situated about half a mile from the high London road, at the eastern boundary of the parish. The chief part is on the knoll of a hill, and extends to the head of the creek that flows northward hence, when, at two miles distance, after several meanderings, it joins the waters of the Swale. This district has a very indifferent character for health, in consequence of the badness of the waters, and the gross unwholesome air to which it is subjected, from its swampy situation; nor is it in any degree pleasant, the narrow streets or rather lanes being badly paved, and for the most part inhabited by seafaring people, fishermen, and oyster-dredgers.

The commodious situation of this place for navigation, near the Swale, to which the town once stood, much nearer than at present, caused it to be frequented by the Danes, in their plundering excursions into this county, particularly in 893, when those pirates, who had been ravaging France and the Low Countries, being distressed for subsistence, turned their thoughts towards England, for the sake of plunder, and sailed up to Apledore, having, with the other part of their fleet, entered the mouth of the Thames, when, landing in this parish, they built a fortress or castle here, at a place called Kemsley down, in the marshes, midway between this town and the mouth of the creek. The site of that erection is still visible, which, as before observed, acquired the name of Castle rough. It is of a square form, and surrounded by a high bank and a broad ditch. From this fortress the Danes not only made their excursions and plundered the neighbouring country, but secured themselves against any power the king might send against them. The town of Milton being part of the royal demesnes, caused its destruction by Earl Godwin, who being at variance with Edward the Confessor, arrived here with a great force, in 1052, and burnt the town, then a flourishing place, afterwards ransacking and spoiling

many other of the king's estates throughout this county. Milton does not appear to have ever been restored to its former flourishing condition.

The state of this place, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, may be seen from the survey made by her order in the 8th year of her reign, whereby it appears that there were then in Milton 130 inhabited houses, four landing-places, one called Fludmill quay, appertaining to Sir Henry Cheney; the second, Whitlock's quay, called the Town quay; the third, Reynold's quay; and the fourth, Hamond's quay: ships and vessels being twenty-six, and persons occupied in trade and fishing twenty-four.

The town of Milton, since that period, has greatly increased, as well in the number of houses and inhabitants, as in its wealth and trade, which consists chiefly in the traffic carrying on weekly at the four wharfs, where the corn and commodities of the neighbouring country are shipped for London, and goods of every description brought back in return.

The town of Milton is governed by *a portreve*, who is chosen annually, on St. James's day, by those inhabitants of the parish paying church and poor rates, his office being to overlook the markets, and preserve order within the town: he also executes the offices of clerk of the market, in all matters within the hundreds of Milton and Marden; settles the price of all commodities that arrive at the quays or any other creeks within the hundred, comprising all such merchandise as head officers in other towns are empowered to set prices upon.

The market, which is very plentiful for all sorts of butcher's meat, poultry, &c. is held on a Saturday, at the shambles in the centre of the town. Adjoining the same is the market-house, and at a small distance from the shambles a species of court house, being a very low old-timbered tenement, where the courts of the manor are kept, and other meetings held; at other times it is made use of as the school-house, beneath which is the *town prison.*

The school is endowed with the annual sum of £9, the master of which is appointed by the minister and churchwardens; nine or ten boys being there taught to read and write.

There is an annual fair held here, on the 24th of July.

The lands in this parish, near the town, are very rich and fer-

tile, and adjoining are the marshes, that extend to the waters of the Swale. Below the hill, westward, is another streamlet, which having turned a mill near the vicarage, runs contiguous to the church and court lodge, about half a mile below the present town; and near the former is conjectured to have stood that destroyed by Earl Godwin.

In this parish, at a small distance northward from Bobbing place, is a farm called the *Quintin farm,* from that diversion having been formerly practised there.

The fishery belonging to the manor and hundred of Milton is of very considerable account. It appears to have been granted by King John by charter, in his 7th year, to the abbot and convent of Faversham, by the description of *the fisheries of Milton,* which the men of Seasalter then held by the yearly rent of 20s., payable at his manor of Milton.

Edward III. confirmed this grant, as did also Henry VI.; and this fishery remained part of the possessions of the abbey till its dissolution, in the reign of Henry VIII.

After that period the *fee simple* of the fishery remained, together with the manor, vested in the hands of the crown till the reign of Charles I., when they were passed away, by the words recited in the grant then made of the manor, to Sir Edward Browne and Christopher Favell; after which, James Herbert, esq. coming into possession of the same, by the settlement made by his father Philip, earl of Pembroke, he in the 26th of Charles II. obtained a fresh grant of this fishery; in opposition to which there was a *quo warranto* brought in the reign of Queen Anne, on a petition of the fishermen of Rochester and Stroud, to show by what authority they, the grantees, kept courts within their manor of Milton, and restrained the fishermen of those and the adjacent towns from fishing and dredging for oysters within this hundred and manor; however, on a trial, a verdict was given in his favor. It subsequently continued down in like manner as the manor of Milton, to the Right Hon. Philip viscount Wenman, and Mrs. Anne Herbert, who became proprietors of this fishery and manor.

The company of Fishermen, or Dredgers, of this fishery, hold it by lease from the owners of the manor, at the yearly rent of £100, and four bushels of oysters. They are governed by their

particular officers, under certain rules, or by-laws, made by ancient custom, at the court baron of this manor; there are about 140 freemen belonging to the same.

The oysters produced from these grounds, within the limits of this fishery, are usually called *Milton Natives*, and esteemed the finest and richest flavored fish of any in Europe. They are supposed to be the same particularly described by Juvenal, in his fourth satire, as being reckoned a great delicacy even in his time.

The sum usually returned for these oysters is from £3000 to £7000 per annum. The Dutch have been supposed by many to have engrossed this article of luxury; however, they expend but a very small part of the above sums, and sometimes none for the space of seven years together.

In the western part of this parish there are several hundred acres of coppice wood, which join a much larger tract of the same kind extending southward almost as far as Binbury pound, on the west side of Stockbury valley, for the space of nearly five miles. These woods, especially those in and near this parish, are noted for the great plenty of chesnut stubs interspersed promiscuously throughout, which, from the quick growth of this kind of wood, renders them very valuable. They are so numerous as to be denominated the *Chesnut woods*, and in the presentment made of the customs of this manor of Milton, in 1575, it is mentioned, that the occupiers of the three mills held of the manor, should gather annually, for the lord of the same, nine bushels of chestenottes, in Chestnott wood, or pay eighteen pence by the year to the queen, who then held it in her own hands, and was possessed of 300 acres of Chesnut wood within this hundred.

These chesnuts are undoubtedly the indigenous growth of Britain, planted by the hand of nature. They are interspersed throughout the tract without any form or regularity, and many of them, from their appearance, are of great age; some being nearly worn out and perishing, which are made use of as the *termini, or boundaries*, as well of private property as parishes. It is evident they were first pitched upon in preference to others for that purpose, as being the largest and most ancient of any trees then existing; and, as they are seldom cut down, or altered, they must have stood sacred to this use, from the ear-

liest introduction of private property into the kingdom, and also its first division into parishes. Four letters were printed in 1771, after having been read to the Royal Society, two of which were written by Dr. Ducarel, and the other two by Mr. Thorpe and Mr. Hasted, to prove that chesnut trees were the indigenous growth of this kingdom, in answer to an *idea* of the Hon. Daines Barrington, who had a wish to establish a contrary opinion.

Henry, youngest son of Robert Sidney, second earl of Leicester, was in 1689 created *baron of Milton*, and viscount Sidney of the Isle of Sheppey, and in 1694 earl of Romney. He died unmarried in 1704, and was buried at St. James's, Westminster, when his titles became extinct.

Even as early as the reign of King Alfred, when he divided the county into laths and hundreds, this place was in his own hands, as part of the *royal demesnes*, and is therefore constantly mentioned, by our ancient historians, by the description of *Villa Regia de Midleton*, that is, *the king's town of Midleton;* on which account it appears probable he annexed the hundred to the manor, as a place more eminent than any other within the boundaries thereof, and called it by the same name.

Milton continued part of the *ancient demesne* of the crown when taken possession of by William the Conqueror, and was entered accordingly in the record of Domesday.

The manor of Milton, with the hundred annexed, continued part of the royal demesnes till the reign of Charles I., and had been usually granted, previous to that reign, from time to time to the different queens of this realm, as part of their dower, or to others of the blood royal, who procured many exemptions and privileges, most of which it continues to enjoy.

In the reign of King Stephen, it remained in the hands of that monarch, as appeared by his exchange of lands belonging thereto, among others, for the manor of Faversham, in order to found the abbey there; and, in the reign of John, the inhabitants gave the king ten marks, to use the same liberties they had done under Henry I. Hugh de Montfort, nephew of Henry III., had the custody of this manor and hundred for the king's use, in the 42d of that reign. In the 1st of Edward I. William de Heure had custody of the same during the pleasure of the king, as had John de Burgo the year after. He however held it only for a short period, as the king, in his 9th year,

granted the property for life to Queen Eleanor, his mother, who held it at her death in the 20th year of his reign, at which time this town seems to have had a *coroner* distinct from those of the county. After that period the same monarch settled it in dower on his second wife, Queen Margaret, who survived him, and died possessed of it in the 10th of Edward II., during which time she claimed, and had a further allowance of liberties and privileges for the same. The following year the king gave it to his Queen Isabella, in dower, who obtained the grant of a weekly market, and an annual fair. She does not seem to have continued long in the possession of this manor after the death of her husband, which occurred in 1327, as Edward III. made a grant of it to his queen Philippa in dower, in the 7th year of his reign. About that period the mill within this manor, called South Milne, was the king's prison, and he granted the custody of it accordingly.

The above princess obtained the confirmation of several different liberties and immunities, who, in the 19th of Edward III. demised this manor, with the hundred, and all privileges, except royalties, to William de Clinton, earl of Huntingdon, for a term of years, at the yearly rent of £200.

Queen Philippa died in 1369, most probably in possession of this manor, which remained in the hands of the crown during the whole of the succeeding reign of Richard II., for, on the accession of Henry IV., he granted it, in his 1st year, to Hugh de Watterton, constable of Queenborough castle, and again in his 7th year, to his fourth son Humphrey, duke of Gloucester, who died possessed of it in the 25th of Henry VI. On his death the possession reverted to the crown, when the king granted this manor and hundred to Margaret, his queen, to hold during her life, who possessed it till the 1st of Edward IV., when she was attainted in Parliament, together with Henry VI., their son the prince of Wales, and others; when Edward IV., in his 4th year, granted this manor, with the hundred, to his youngest brother, George Plantagenet, duke of Clarence. He, in the 18th year of that reign, falling under the displeasure of the king, was attainted of high treason, when it again reverted to the crown, where it continued during that reign.

After the above period we do not meet with any further grants of the manor being made; but, in the reign of Elizabeth, A. D.

1575, when it was in the possession of that queen, a *solemn inquisition*, by virtue of a commission, was issued to Sir R. Manwood, justice of the Common Pleas, for the purpose of inquiring concerning the customs, bounds, and rights, of her manors and hundreds of Milton and Marden, the same being a very curious and interesting record. In a patent, or deputation, also granted that year to the Lord Cobham, warden of the Cinque Ports, by the Lord Admiral Howard, the former was empowered to claim such a *wreck of the sea* as was not claimed by any particular grant, an exception being made of this place of Middleton, and the sea adjoining thereto.

At length James I., in his 7th year, granted this manor, with the hundred of Milton, to Philip Herbert, earl of Montgomery, for the term of sixty years; and his successor, Charles I., by letters patent, granted the fee of the same to Sir Edward Browne and Christopher Favell, who soon afterwards conveyed their interest therein to Sir Edward Leach and Edward Taverner, who passed it by sale to Philip earl of Pembroke and Montgomery, before mentioned, when he became entitled to the fee, as well as the possession of this manor. He had been created lord Herbert of Shurland, in Sheppey, and earl of Montgomery, in the reign of Charles I., on the death of his eldest brother, William earl of Pembroke, without surviving issue, whom he succeeded in titles and estates. In the 6th of James I. he had been elected knight of the Garter, lord chamberlain of the household to Charles I., chancellor of the university of Oxford, and constable of Queenborough castle.

By Susan, his first wife, daughter of Edward earl of Oxford, he had seven sons, two of whom only survived him, Philip, his successor in honours and titles; and the Hon. James Herbert; on whose marriage, in 1645, with Jane, daughter and sole heir of Sir Robert Spiller, of Laleham, in Middlesex, his father, the earl, settled this manor and appendages. He left two sons, of whom, Thomas, the eldest, died, when James Herbert, esq., the other male heir, succeeded to this manor, and was of Kingsey, in Buckinghamshire, whose son, James Herbert, esq. of Tyrthorpe, in Oxfordshire, died possessed of it in 1709. He left two sons, James, and Philip; and two daughters, Sophia, married to Philip viscount Wenman, of the kingdom of Ireland; and Anne.

James Herbert, esq. of Kingsey, the eldest son, succeeded his father in this manor, and served in Parliament for Oxfordshire. He died in 1721, on which it descended to his surviving brother, Philip Herbert, esq. of Tyrthorpe, afterwards M.P. for the city of Oxford, who also died in 1747, on which this manor, among his other estates, devolved to his two sisters, above mentioned.

Philip viscount Wenman, in right of Sophia, his wife, accordingly became possessed of a moiety of this manor, with its appendages, of which he died possessed in 1760, leaving two sons, Philip lord viscount Wenman, who married Eleanor, daughter of Willoughby, late earl of Abingdon; and Thomas Francis, LL.D., regius professor of civil law in the university of Oxford, who was unfortunately drowned there in 1796; and one daughter, Sophia, married to William Humphrey Wickham, esq. of Swalecliffe, in Oxfordshire. On the death of Lord Wenman, his widow became entitled to his moiety of this manor, for her life, upon whose death, in 1787, it descended to her only surviving son, the Right Hon. Philip viscount Wenman; but the other moiety of this estate continued in the possession of Mrs. Anne Herbert, the other sister, and at length coheir of Philip Herbert, esq. of Tyrthorpe. Lord Wenman bears for his arms, *Party, per pale, gules, and azure, a cross patence, or;* over it, *an escutcheon of pretence,* for Herbert, *party, per pale, azure, and gules, three lioncels rampant, argent, with a proper difference;* supporters, *two greyhounds, gules, gorged with plain collars, or.*

There is a court-leet and court-baron held for this manor and hundred, at Easter and Michaelmas, annually, usually styled in records, *the court of ancient demesne for the manor and hundred of Milton.*

NORTHWOOD CHASTENERS, usually called *Norwood,* is an eminent manor here, which derived its name, as well from its situation in the western part of this parish, as the large tract of woodlands adjoining, which woods having large quantities of chesnuts growing throughout, acquired for this manor the additional name of Chasteners. Lambard, in his Perambulations, says, that this manor was of such account in the days of King Edward the Confessor, that 100 burgesses of the city of Canterbury owed their suit to it, as appeared by the record of

Domesday; that writer, however, has mistaken the description of Little Barton manor, near Canterbury, which is called Norwood in that record, for this manor of the same name in Milton.

Stephen, son of Jordan de Shepey, who lived in the reigns of Richard I. and King John, obtained a grant of this manor from the crown, and built a mansion here, which he moated round, and encompassed with a park, well wooded and stored with abundance of deer and wild boars. Hence he assumed the name of Norwood, which was borne by all his descendants.

Stephen de Norwood, above mentioned, lived to a very advanced age, who, a short time before his death, gave two acres of land in Northwoode, for building a chapel there, and ten acres, for the maintenance of the chaplain, all in small tithes, as well of his tenements, as of his mills, and half an acre of land contiguous to the latter. His son, Roger de Northwood, stands registered in the list of those Kentish gentlemen who where engaged with Richard I. at the siege of Ascalon, in Palestine, and was interred in the church of Minster, in Sheppey, as also the Lady Bona, his wife. Their son, Sir Roger de Northwood, in the 41st of Henry III., procured the tenure of his lands to be changed from gavelkind to knight's service; before which, he had, in the 32d year of that reign, entered into a composition with the abbot and convent of St. Augustine's for the prosecution of his father's purposes, of the endowment of the chapel before mentioned, which he had previously converted to his own use, and for the providing for the indemnity of the mother church of Milton, of the patronage of the abbot and convent.

In the 1st of King Edward I. writs were issued to several of the principal gentry and their wives of this and other counties to be present at the coronation at Westminster, on the Sunday next after St. Valentine's day, one of which writs was directed, *Iohi de Northwode, et Consorti suæ; Iohi de Northwode, jun., et Consortibus suis.*

He died in the 13th year of that reign, then holding this manor *in capite*, by knight's ervice; in whose descendants, men eminent in their time, having received summonses to Parliament, it continued, many of whom lie buried in Milton church. They bore for their arms *Ermine, a cross, engrailed gules*, which shield, impaling Norton, formerly appeared in several parts of the

cloisters of Canterbury cathedral. This manor continued down to John de Northwood, esq. of Northwood, who married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of John Frogenhall, by whom he had a son, of the same name, who dying, his two sisters, one married to John Barley, and the other to Sir John Norton, became his coheirs, and on the division of their estates, the latter became, in right of his wife, possessed of this manor. He was descended from Nicholas de Norton, who lived in the reign of King Stephen, and was possessed of much land in the neighbourhood of Norton and Faversham, as appeared by the chartulary of the monastery of St. Augustine. His descendants, by the marriage of a female heir of the family of At Leeze, at length became possessed in her right of Sheldwich. Ultimately, Reginald Norton, esq. left two sons; John, who married the daughter and coheir of John Northwood, esq., as before mentioned; and William, ancestor of the Norton's, of Fordwich, in this county. He had likewise an illegitimate son, named Thomas Norton, or Grene, which latter name all his descendants assumed.

John Norton, esq., above mentioned, in the reign of Henry VIII., attended Sir Edward Poyning's, knight banneret, when he went to the assistance of Margaret duchess of Savoy, governess of the Low Countries, sister to the emperor, against the duke of Guildres; who, for his services there, was, with others, knighted by Charles the young king of Castile, afterwards crowned emperor.

In the 5th year of the above reign, he served the office of sheriff, and dying in 1534, was buried in the Northwood chancel, in Milton church. His descendants, who bore for their arms, *Gules, a cross potent, ermine,* continued to reside at Northwood down to Thomas Norton, of Northwood, who was sheriff in the 17th of James I., and knighted. In the 20th year of that reign, he alienated this manor to Manasses Northwood, esq. of Dane court, in Thanet, descended from a collateral branch of those already mentioned as the early possessors of this manor, who bore for their arms the same coat as the Northwood's, before adverted to, with the addition, in the first quarter, of *a wolf's head erased, gules.* He died in 1636, holding this manor *in capite,* by knight's service, whose son, Richard Northwood, esq., shortly after his father's decease, passed it away by sale to Sir

William Tufton, knight and bart. of Hothfield, a younger brother of Nicholas the first earl of Thanet, who had been governor of Barbadoes, and subsequently resided at Vintners, in Boxley.

On his death, Sir Benedict Tufton, bart., his eldest son, succeeded to the manor of Northwood, but dying, his next brother, Sir Charles, became his heir, who held this estate, and by deed, in 1661, alienated it to Gilbert Roope, of Vintners, and George Charlton, of Boxley, tanner, who, in 1664, sold it again to Captain Stephen Mitchell, of Rotherhithe, in Surrey. His heirs instituted a suit in Chancery to determine the property, when it was ordered, by a decree of the court, under Charles II., to be sold; in consequence of which, it became vested, about the year 1680, in Mr. Mathew Crover, gent. of Rotherhithe, who, with others, joined in the conveyance of the same to Mr. Thomas Houghton, gent. of Islington, for the term of his life, with remainder to Susan, then wife of Mr. John Marsh, *in tail general.* She left an only daughter, of her own name, who carried this manor in marriage to Mr. Richard Davenport, gent.; but surviving her husband, she suffered a recovery of the property under George I., and afterwards, by will, in 1731, devised it to her son, in tail, with divers remainders.

Mr. John Davenport levied a fine of this manor in 1742, and in 1753 conveyed it by sale to Mr. John le Grand, descended from Julian le Grand, a native of Bailleu, who left the Low Countries, on account of his religion, in the reign of Elizabeth. He died unmarried in 1794, and devised it by will to Robert Rushbrooke, esq. of Canterbury. A court-baron is held for this manor.

GROVEHURST, now generally called *Grovers,* is a manor situated somewhat less than a mile northward from the town of Milton, and was once the inheritance of a family of that name. Sir William de Grovehurst possessed it in the reigns of Edward I. and II., as did his descendant, Sir Richard Grovehurst, in that of Henry VII. At length, Thomas Grovehurst, esq., in the reign of Edward VI., alienated it to Clement Fynche, a branch of that family of Netherfield, in Sussex, descended from Vincent Herbert, otherwise Finch, and ancestors of the several branches of this family who were from time to time created peers of this realm, whose arms they likewise bore.

It appears by the escheat rolls of the 3d of Queen Elizabeth, that he then held this manor *in capite*. He died in the 38th year of that reign, and lies buried in the great chancel of this church, where a monument is erected to his memory, with the effigies of himself, his two wives, and his son, John Fynche. His descendants continued for many generations its possessors, till the property was alienated by one of them to a Keat, when Sir Jonathen Keat, bart. died possessed of it in 1700, whose arms were, *Argent, three cats, a mountain, in pale passant, sable;* which Guillim states to have been the bearing of Sir Jonathan Keat, bart of Paul's Walden, in Hertfordshire, and of Grovehurst, in Milton. His heirs sold it to one Peachy, of Petworth, in Sussex, whose descendant, Sir Henry Peachy, was, in 1733, created a baronet. He died in 1737, without issue male, and was succeeded in title and estates by his next brother, Sir John Peachy, bart., whose son, of the same name, dying in 1765, was succeeded in title, according to the limitation of the patent, by Sir James Peachy, bart. of Fittleworth, in Sussex, who bore for his arms, *Azure, a lion rampant double queued, ermine on a canton, or, a mullet pierced, gules.* He died in 1771, and was succeeded by his only son, Sir James Peachy, bart. of West Dean, in Sussex; in 1794 created lord Selsey; who afterwards possessed this manor.

The manor of Owne, generally styled in ancient records *the manor of the court of Owne*, is situated on the edge of the marshes on Kimsley down, at a small distance eastward from the last-described manor of Grovehurst. This manor, in the reign of Edward I., was in the possession of the family of the Savage's, one of whom, John le Sauvage, in the 23d year of that prince, had a grant of *free warren* and other liberties in his manor of One, near Middleton. In the 1st of Edward II., John de Handlo was owner, and had the same grant to him and his heirs in this manor; but in the 1st of Richard II. it was in the hands of the crown, and the same year granted to Alice de Preston and her heirs. It afterwards passed to the family of the Monins's, John Monins, of Swanton, dying possessed of the same in 1568, holding it *in capite*, by knight's service. On his death, without issue, his brother, Sir Edward Monins, of Waldershare, became his heir, and possessed this manor, which his son, Sir William Monins, bart., afterwards alienated to John

Finch, esq., who held it in 1653. One of his descendants passed it, together with the manor of Grovehurst, before mentioned, to a Keat; and Sir Jonathan Keat, bart. died possessed of it in 1700, whose heirs sold it to one Peachy; in whose family it continued down, in like manner, to lord Selsey.

A portion, however, of this estate, which comprehended Owne house, had, in the reign of Charles I., become the property of Ambrose Tomlyn; and afterwards went into the possession of Samuel Hunt, in right of his wife, whose only daughter carried it in marriage to the Rev. Charles Hinde, vicar of this parish; when they becoming owners of the property, pulled down the ancient mansion in 1768, and soon after conveyed the site of the same, with the adjoining lands, to their brother, Mr. John Hinde, gent. of Milton. There is no court held for this manor.

COLSALL, otherwise CHICHES, and now generally called *Colson*, is a reputed manor, the mansion of which is situated at the north-west extremity of this parish, though great part of the lands belonging to the same extend into that of Swade. This seat has been eminent for having had owners of both those names, who resided here successively, the former as early as the reign of Edward III., in which line it continued for several generations, they having borne for their arms, *Chequy, or and sable, a chief argent, guttee de sang*. The daughter and heir afterwards carried it in marriage to Ralph Chiche, whose daughter and heir, Margaret, entitled her husband, Thomas Alefe, to the possession thereof. He rebuilt this seat, and died possessed of it in 1529, and lies buried, with Margaret his wife, in the south chancel of Milton church. On his monument there were, some years back, his arms, *Per fess. a lion rampant between three crosses, pattee fitchee impaling Chiche, three lions rampant*. In the hall of this seat there is the rebus of his name, being the large letter A, and then a *leaf*. He likewise died without issue male, leaving a daughter, Catherine, who carried the estate again in marriage to Richard Monins, esq. of Saltwood castle, whose grandson, Sir William Monins, created a baronet in 1611, seems to have alienated it to Sir Justinian Lewin, of Otterden, who died in 1620, leaving an only daughter and heir, Elizabeth. She entitled her husband, Richard Rogers, esq. of Brianston, in Somersetshire, to its possession, who likewise dying without male issue, his daughter, Elizabeth, carried it in

marriage to Charles Cavendish, lord Mansfield, who died without issue by her; and secondly, to Charles Stuart, duke of Richmond and Lenox, who, with his duchess, in the 14th of Charles II., alienated this estate to Thomas Lushington, of Canterbury. He died possessed of it in 1757, and by will gave this estate to his eldest son, Captain William Lushington, who dying unmarried in 1763, it passed to his only surviving brother, the Rev. James Stephen Lushington, of Bottisham, in Cambridgeshire, a prebendary of the church of Carlisle.

MILTON is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sittingbourne. The church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, is a large handsome building, consisting of two aisles and two chancels, the southernmost of which belongs to the family of the Northwood's. It has a well built tower at the west end; and in the church, among others, were formerly the arms of Barry Digges Finch of the Cinque Ports, of the Norwood's, and Norton's, with their several crests, trophies, and banners; also of Marten quartering Boteler; one coat, *Barry, argent, and azure, on a canton of the first, a bird of the second; Argent, three bends azure within a bordure, eight mullets; gules, a fess or between three mullets, argent;* and in one of the windows, a man kneeling, as well as a coat of arms, *Six lions rampant, three and three;* and beneath, *Orati paia Guliel Savage Armigi.*

Mauricius ap John, rector of St. George's, in Exeter, was buried in the choir of this church, as appears by his will, under the date 1499.

In 1070, being the 5th of the reign of William the Conqueror, he gave to the abbot and convent of St. Augustine the church of Middleton, and the tenths of all the products accruing from that manor, together with the tenths of all the appurtenances of the land, wood, meadows, and water, excepting the tenths of honey, and rent paid in specie.

Pope Lucius XI., in 1144, at the petition of Abbot Hugh de Trottesclive, confirmed the annual pension of ten marks from the church to that abbey. It remained part of the possessions of the monastery till the final dissolution, under Henry VIII., when being surrendered to the crown, that monarch settled it on his new founded dean and chapter of Christ church, Canterbury, in whom it has ever since remained.

The vicarage of Milton was valued in the king's books at £13 2 6, the yearly tenths being £1 6 3. In 1578 there were 108 dwellings, and 374 communicants. In 1640 the vicarage was estimated at £80, the communicants being 529.

In 1821, there were 317 dwellings in the parish of Milton; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 1019, females 993, making a total of 2012 souls.

Bobbing lies the next parish southwestward from Milton, at a very small distance northward from the high London road, at Key street.

This parish, comprising nearly the whole, lies on the northern side of the high London road, nearly at the thirty-ninth milestone. It is by no means an unpleasant situation, though not bearing the reputation of being very healthy. It contains about 780 acres of land, of which forty are wood; the soil is, in general, poor, much lying on the high ground being either gravel or sand; but in the lower parts, especially towards the north, in the direction of Milton, there is some good fertile level land. The high road runs along the southern boundaries, excepting at Key street, where it extends some way up the Detling road; hence the hill rises to high ground, on which, about half a mile from the road, is the church, and close to the cemetery, the ruins of Bobbing court. At a short distance southward, on the brow of the hill, is a small shooting seat, built by Arthur Gore, esq., which was afterwards considerably improved by his cousin, Sir Booth Gore, bart., of Sligo, in Ireland. The house commands a view of the London road, and below the descent of the hill, northward from the church, is Bobbing place, a low situation, close to the boundaries of this parish, near Milton.

At the south-west corner of the parish is a small hamlet, called Key street, intended most probably for *caii stratum*, or *Caius's street*, where stands a large house erected by Mr. William Boykett, who resided there. There was also formerly a spital house for the use of the poor and diseased.

About a mile southward hence, on the high road to Detling, is a gravel pit of unusual depth and length, the excavating of

which must have been a work of great labour, insomuch so, that if we may be allowed the conjecture, we should suppose it to have been dug by the Romans, who thence procured the materials, in order to make the road, which still remains visible, from Key street to Sittingbourne; as the quantity of gravel wherewith the route abounds, could only have been supplied from a pit of such dimensions as that alluded to.

There was formerly a *quintin* in this parish, the field in which it stood being still denominated the Quintin field.

The paramount manor of Milton claims over this parish, *subordinate* to which is the manor of Bobbing, the mansion of which, called Bobbing court, was the ancient residence of the Savage's, or Le Sauvage, as they were called in French, a family of eminence, possessed of good estates in this part of Kent; Leland, in his Itinerary, stating that this manor had previously belonged to the family of the Molyne's.

Ralph de Savage, the first owner of this manor, was with Richard I. at the siege of Ascalon, in Palestine; and his descendants, Sir John le Sauvage, Sir Thomas, of Bobbing, and Sir Roger de Savage, accompanied Edward I. to the siege of Carlaverock in Scotland, who were there knighted.

Roger le Sauvage possessed this manor in the following reign of Edward II., and obtained a grant of *free warren* and other liberties for his lands in Bobbynges, Middelton, Borden, Newenton, and Stokebury.

In the descendants of this family (who bore for their arms, *Argent, six lions rampant sable, three, two, and one,)* this manor continued down to Arnold Savage, esq., who died in 1420, when Eleanor his sister, first married to Sir Reginald Cobham, and secondly to William Clifford, became his heir to this manor, and the rest of his possessions. At length Roger de Clifford, who had married Matilda, daughter of Thomas de Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, died under Richard II., leaving three sons, of whom Thomas was the eldest, and from him descended the Clifford's, earls of Cumberland, the Boyle's, Lords Clifford of Lonsborough, Thomas earl of Thanet, Lord Clifford, and his daughter the lady Margaret Tufton, and lady Clifford, married to Coke, earl of Leicester.

Sir William Clifford, the second son, died, and Lewis Clifford, the third, was a man of celebrity in the military line, as well as

in state affairs, who, in the reign of Richard II., was created knight of the Garter. He died under Henry IV., leaving one son William, who, as before mentioned, married the sister of Arnold Savage, esq., and in her right became possessed of Bobbing manor, a younger branch of the family having been settled at Bobbing place, in this parish, some time previous. The Clifford's of Bobbing bore for their arms, *Chequy, or and sable, a fess and bordure, gules, on the fess a crescent, argent*, for difference, which coat they quartered with that of Savage. These arms of Clifford are blazoned upon the roof of the cloisters of Canterbury cathedral, and in St. Margaret's church, in Canterbury, impaled with those of Savage. The first Lord Clifford of this family bore, *Chequy, or and azure, a bendlet, gules*, which the elder branch kept as long as they continued. A second son turned *the bendlet* into *a bend*, and placed on it *three lioneux passant, or ;* from whom the Clifford's of Frampton are descended. Roger Clifford, second son of Walter, the first lord, instead of *the bendlet*, took *a fess gules*, which was borne by the earls of Cumberland, and others of that branch. Those of Kent added *the bordure to the fess, and a crescent* thereon for difference ; and Sir Conyers bore *the chequy or and sable*, as appears by his coat of arms on an original picture of him, painted in 1595.

William Clifford, before mentioned, was sheriff in the reign of Henry VI., and died leaving two sons ; Lewis, who succeeded him in his estates in this county ; and John, ancestor of the Lords Clifford, of Chudleigh.

Lewis Clifford, the eldest son, resided at Bobbing court ; whose son, Alexander Clifford, esq. was sheriff under Edward IV., and dying in the reign of Henry VII. left by his first wife two sons ; Nicholas, who was of Sutton Valence ; and Richard.

Nicholas, the eldest son, possessed this manor of Bobbing, on the death of his father, but removed to Sutton Valence. He afterwards sold it to Sir Thomas Neville, from whom it was repurchased by Richard Clifford, the younger son, who died possessed of it, and was succeeded by his son George Clifford, esq., who resided at Bobbing court in the reign of Elizabeth, leaving seven sons, and three daughters. Henry, the eldest, possessed this manor, which he subsequently alienated to his younger brother, Sir Conyers Clifford, and dame Mary, his wife. He was

governor of Connaught, in Ireland, and a privy counsellor of that kingdom, leaving two sons, Henry and Conyers. His wife survived him, and possessed this manor solely, entitling her fourth husband, Sir Anthony St. Leger, to this estate; having had by him, who survived her, one son, named Anthony. By her will she devised this manor in equal shares to her two sons, Henry and Conyers Clifford; and her son, Anthony St. Leger, afterwards knighted, and of Wierton house in Boughton Monchensie. They joined in the sale of the property to Sir Edward Duke, of Cosington, in Aylesford, who passed it away by sale to Sir Richard Gurney, alderman of London, who was in 1641 created a baronet, being then lord mayor. He bore for his arms, *Paly of six, per fess, counterchanged, or and azure*, which coat was in allusion to that borne by Hugh Gorney, a Norman, created earl of Gorney by William Rufus, who bore, *Paly, six or, and azure.* He alienated the estate to his brother-in-law, Henry Sandford, esq., who died possessed of it in 1660, having borne for his arms, *Ermine, on a fess, gules, two boars' heads, couped, or.*

He left four daughters his coheirs, Christian, Angelica, Mary, and Frances, which latter carried this manor in marriage to Sir George Moore, bart. He died possessed of it in 1678, and was buried in the north chancel of this church, leaving his widow surviving, who carried this manor again in marriage to Colonel Edward Digges, fifth son of Thomas Diggs, esq. of Chilham castle, who also dying, she again married Colonel Robert Crayford, governor of Sheerness, who survived her, and possessed this manor, which, in the reign of King William, he sold to Thomas Tyndale, gent., of North Nibley, in Gloucestershire, being the descendant of a family originally settled in Northumberland. His son, William Tyndale, esq., pulled down this mansion, and, dying in 1748, was buried in the south chancel of Bobbing church, leaving no issue, when he by will devised this manor in *tail male* to his collateral kinsman, the Rev. William Tyndale, rector of Coats, in Gloucestershire. His son, Thomas Tyndale, esq. of North Cerney, in that county, died in 1783, having married Elizabeth Coxe, whom he left surviving, and one son, William Tyndale, who afterwards possessed this manor.

The mansion of Bobbing court was pleasantly situated, com-

manding a fine prospect on every side, having stood contiguous to the south side of the churchyard. It has been pulled down many years, but, from the foundations still remaining, the walls of the garden, and the outhouses, which are standing, it appears to have been a building of very considerable extent.

There is a court-baron regularly held for this manor.

BOBBING PLACE was an ancient seat in this parish, situated at the northern extremity, adjoining Milton, which seems to have been the ancient residence of the family of the Clifford's, before they became possessed of the manor and court of Bobbing, as heirs to the Savage's.

A younger collateral branch, in the person of Robert Clifford, esq. of Bobbing, a younger brother of Richard, bishop of Worcester and London successively, kept his shrievalty in this parish, both in the reigns of Henry IV. and V., in the 8th year of which latter prince he was knight of the shire, with Arnold Savage. He died in 1422, and was buried in the cathedral of Canterbury.

It afterwards passed into the name of Gorham, and thence to that of Tufton, as, in the reign of Charles I., this seat was the property and residence of Sir Humphrey Tufton, second surviving son of Sir John Tufton, knight and baronet, of Hothfield, and next brother to Nicholas, first earl of Thanet. He resided at times both here and at the Mote in Maidstone, and in 1641 was created a baronet. He died at Bobbing place in 1659, and was buried in this church.

Sir John Tufton, knight and baronet, his eldest surviving son, resided entirely at the Mote, and, dying in 1685, was buried in Maidstone church. By his will he devised this seat to trustees, to be sold for the payment of his debts, and they accordingly, in 1687, conveyed it by sale to Major Thomas Cooke, of Faversham, who alienated it in 1692 to Mr. Thomas Sole, of Milton, ship builder. He married, in 1688, Mary Cockin, of that parish, by whom he left Cockin Sole, esq., barrister at law, and recorder of Queenborough, who resided here, where he died in 1750, leaving one son, and a daughter Catherine. He was succeeded by his son, John Cockin Sole, esq., who kept his shrievalty at this place in 1756, having borne for his arms, *Argent, a chevron, gules, between three soles hauriant, proper, all within a bordure,* engrailed of the second. He continued to reside here

till his removal to Norton court, near Faversham, and afterwards, in 1766, he pulled down nearly the whole of this seat, leaving only sufficient of the building to serve as a mean farm-house, after which he alienated it to Mr. Thomas Colley, who rebuilt this seat.

There is a small manor in this parish, called UPPER TOES, that formerly belonged to the family of the Bartholomew's, of Oxenhoath, from which it has, in like manner as that estate, become the property of Sir William Geary, of Oxenhoath. There is also another small manor, called NETHER TOES, formerly the estate of the family of the Barrow's, which was given by the will of Mr. William Barrow, in 1707, among his other estates, for the benefit of the poor of Borden, in the trustees of which charity it was vested.

BOBBING is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sittingbourne. The church, dedicated to St. Bartholomew, consists of two small aisles and two chancels, with a tall spire steeple at the west end, in which are five bells.

In the north chancel are several ancient gravestones of the families of the Savage's and the Clifford's, many of which are entirely stripped of their brasses. On one are the figures in brass of a man and woman, the former having the surcoat of Clifford, *Chequy, a fess with a bordure.* There is a memorial for Sir George Moore, A.D. 1678, a monument also for Henry Sandford, and Elizabeth his wife, 1660, with their busts in white marble. In the south chancel are the tombs of William Tyndale, 1748, and Darell, a son of Nathaniel Darell, governor of Sheerness. In the south aisle is a monument with two busts in white marble, for Charles and Humphrey Tufton, of Maidstone, who both died unmarried. There are also memorials for the families of the Cobbe's, the Poole's, and others.

The church of Bobbing was given by Henry III. to the monastery of St. Mary and St. Sexburgh, in the Isle of Sheppey, which gift was confirmed by Henry IV. It so remained till the general dissolution of religious houses in the reign of Henry VIII. when, becoming vested in the crown, that prince granted the rectory to Thomas Green, to hold *in capite* by knight's service, who had been tenant at the dissolution, at the yearly rental of

£12. He died in the reign of Edward VI., leaving two sons, Norton Green, and Robert Green, gent., of Bobbing.

Norton Green, esq., on the death of his father, became possessed of this rectory, and after passing through some collateral branches of the family, eventually descended to Colonel William Tyndale, of Gloucestershire, who became patron of the same.

In 1578 there were 118 communicants, and in 1640 the vicarage was valued at £60, the communicants being then eighty-eight. There is no valuation of this vicarage in the king's books.

In 1186 the abbot of St. Augustine's monastery demised to the prioress of St. Sexburgh, in Sheppey, the tithes of this parish, which belonged to them in right of their church of Middleton, at 10s. per annum, for ever, which is more fully mentioned under the head of that parish.

In 1821 there were forty-one dwellings in the parish of Bobbing; and, at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 155, females 170, making a total of 325 souls.

Iwade, commonly called Warde, lies northward from Bobbing, the parish of Milton intervening, the chief part whereof is within that hundred, and over which that manor claims *paramount*. The remaining, or eastern portion, within the *hundred of Tenham*, as well as the lands therein, being held of that manor.

This parish lies very low, and on a level with the adjoining marshes, the situation and general appearance much resembling the fens in Lincolnshire. It is hardly known, excepting to those who travel towards the isle of Sheppey, to which the road leads through the parish, over the marshes, to the king's ferry, whence the village, with the church, stand one mile distant, and about two miles from the town of Milton northwestward.

The lands are very even and flat, of a soft boggy nature, being nearly all pasture ground and marsh, having vast quantities of sheep continually feeding upon them. Dr. Plot remarks that the sheep never have the rot in the marshes of this parish, whereas the contrary is the case in those of Tenham, the sheep having, in their livers, animals in the shape of plaice, occasioned, as it is

supposed, from their feeding on the herb spearwort, which grows plentifully among the grass. The low and moist situation of this tract, close to so large an extent of marshes, and the waters of the Swale, which constitute its northern boundary, render it scarcely ever free from fogs and noisome vapors ; and in summer, in dry weather, the stench of the mud, in the ponds and ditches, and the badness of the water, contribute so much to its unwholesome atmosphere, that no person will reside there, excepting those who are from circumstances compelled so to do, it is consequently but very thinly inhabited.

It has been remarked that the thatch on the roofs of buildings in this parish cannot be long preserved, the rooks, and other birds, continually carrying it away ; which circumstance arises from the quantity of flies harbouring therein, as it is for such food the birds unthatch the buildings. There is some land in this parish, called Swains Down, a name plainly of Danish origin ; and there are the *vestigia* of some ancient fortifications, or works, that had been thrown up, still remaining.

Helmes, or *Holmes*, now vulgarly called *Soames*, is a manor that lies partly in this parish and that of Milton, the house belonging thereto being commonly called *the Moated house*, from a large moat having been formerly made round the structure.

This manor was anciently part of the possessions of the family of the Savage's, seated at Bobbing, one of whom, named Arnold, son of Sir Thomas Savage, died possessed of it in the reign of Edward III. It then continued in his descendants, of the names of Savage and Clifford, in like manner as Bobbing, down to Alexander Clifford, esq., who resided at this manor of Holmes during the life of his father, at whose death he removed to Bobbing. At length his descendant, Henry Clifford, esq. of Bobbing, in the reign of Elizabeth, alienated it to Thomas Thomson, of Sandwich, whose descendant, of the same name, leaving two sons, Thomas, of Kenfield, in Petham, and Henry, of Royton chapel, in Lenham, the latter, by his father's will, became possessed of this manor. After that period it passed into the same line of ownership as Royton, until sold with that estate, to Thomas Best, esq. of Chilston, who, by will in 1795, gave it, with his other estates in this county, to his nephew, George Best, esq. of Chilston, who subsequently sold it to Mr. Joseph Bond Davis.

Iwade is within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sittingbourne. The church, dedicated to All Saints, is a small neat building, consisting of two aisles, and the same number of chancels, with a low pointed steeple, containing two bells. There is some good painted glass in the windows of this edifice.

It was formerly esteemed as a chapel to the church of Tenham, and as such given and appropriated with it to the archdeaconry of Canterbury, by Archbishop Stephen Langton, in 1227. It was subsequently a perpetual curacy, of the yearly value of £8.

In 1730 it was augmented by the governors of Queen Anne's Bounty in £200, and again in 1766 with the same sum. It was subsequently benefited by an additional £200, in consequence of a legacy bequeathed by Mrs. Ursula Taylor, which sum was paid by Sir Philip Boteler, bart. Added to the above, £200 were subsequently laid out by an incumbent in a freehold purchase, in the parish of Borden, about three miles from Iwade, the annual rent of which is £28.

In 1821 there were twenty-two dwellings in the parish of Iwade; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 75, females 70, making a total of 145 souls.

THE ISLAND OF SHEPPEY.

THE ISLAND OF SHEPPEY is separated from the rest of the county of Kent, by a narrow arm of the sea, called *the Swale*, but it is not ascertained by what name it was known to the Romans. Ptolemy, in his Geography, mentions two islands in this part of Britain, which he calls *Toliapis* and *Counus*. He describes the former as being in lon. 23, lat. 54. 15, and the latter in lon. 24, lat. 54. 30, though what space he allowed to a degree is uncertain, but undoubtedly it appears to be much less than at the present period. The former is supposed by most of our learned men, among whom are Camden and Batteley, to be this island, though Lambard, Leland, and some others, ascribe it to the latter, merely from the etymology of the name.

It was called by the Saxons, SCEAPIGE, or OVINIA, that is, *the island of Sheep*, which name it derived from the number of sheep continually fed thereon. Baxter, in his Glossary, under the word *Malata*, adds *Vervecum Patria*, or the isle of Sheep, now named Sheppey. This is corruptly called, by the book of RAVENNA, *Malaca;* by the Britons, *Vervex;* and in Chron. de Mailros, A.D. 832, the name is *Peseiga*.

The circumference of Sheppey, including the little adjoining isles of Elmley and Harty, which lie at the south-east side, include about two eighth parts of the whole, and measure upwards of thirty miles. It is about eleven miles in length, and eight in breadth.

The grounds of this island rise from the shores, on the south-east and west bounds, towards the centre; but, on the north side, it seems, from the height of the cliffs, to have once extended much farther. The cliffs are six miles long, and decline gradually at each end, the more elevated parts continuing about two thirds as far as they extend, and at the very highest of them they are, about Minster, not less than thirty yards in perpendicular height above the beach or shore, consisting chiefly of clay, which is constantly washed at their base by the tides that

beat against them, more especially when driven by strong easterly winds, so that they are continually wasting, and falling down upon the shore. So great is the loss of land at the more elevated parts, that sometimes near an acre has sunk in one mass from that height upon the beach below, with the corn remaining entire on the surface, which has subsequently grown, increased to maturity, and been reaped in that state with very trifling loss to the owner. The soil of the greater part of the island is an exceeding stiff clay, by far the largest portion consisting of upland, pastures, and marshes, the latter being rich and fertile for fatting land, while the former are covered with hills, very wet in winter, and in summer subject to burn and split open to the depth of eight or nine feet. The lands towards the north side, in the parishes of Minster and Eastchurch, are very fertile in corn, the enclosures of which are small, and surrounded by thick hedge-rows of elm, the whole face of the country being exceedingly pleasant in fine weather, and interspersed with much small hill and dale, houses and cottages being very frequent.

The roads throughout the island are very good all the year round, owing to the great plenty of fine gravel of the beach, and the prospects extremely pleasing and extensive on every side. There is hardly any coppice wood throughout the whole of Sheppey. Fresh water is very scarce, and the greater part brackish, though between Eastchurch and Minster there are some few springs, which, notwithstanding their contiguity to the sea, are perfectly good and fresh. The air is thick, and much impregnated by noxious vapors arising from the large extent of marshes in and near it, and the badness of the water, which render it very unwholesome. Few persons, therefore, of any consequence reside here; and in the low and marshy parts the inhabitants are very thinly scattered, consisting, in general, of bailiffs and servants. The garrison and dock of Sheerness, and its environs, the reader will, however, except from the above observation, as there are many gentleman employed in the government service who possess ample property, and are constant residents.

The stream which flows between this island and the main land is called *the Swale*, and the two extremities, *the East and West Swale*. It extends twelve miles, and is navigable for ships of

200 tons burden. This water appears formerly to have been accounted as part of the river Thames, and was the usual passage, as being the safest, for the shipping between London and the North Foreland; accordingly, Sandwich is frequently styled by our ancient historians, *Lundenwic*, or *the Thames Mouth*, being the name given to it by the Saxons. The town of Milton is also said by them to stand on the south bank of the Thames. Leland, in particular, states, in his Itinerary, *that town stands on an arm of the Tamise;* and he also makes mention of the point against Quinborough, *entering into the mayne Tamys.*

The usual passage is by a ferry, called King's Ferry, for carriages, horses, cattle, and passengers. The ferryboat is moved forward by a long cable, of about 140 fathoms or more, which being fastened at each end across the Swale, serves to move it forward by hand. On the side opposite the island, is a small house of stone, in the place of a structure formerly erected by one George Fox, who having once staid a long time in the cold, from which he received great injury, built that edifice to shelter travellers from the same inconvenience.

Previous to the statute for bettering the highways, this ferry had been repaired and maintained, time out of mind, at the charge of all the inhabitants and landholders within the island, by an assessment made, at a court or law day, held annually at Kingsborowe, within the island, in the king's name, only for the maintenance of this ferry.

Upon the law day before mentioned, a ferry warden, two ferrymen, and an annual constable, appoint a ferry keeper, and with the homage, make rules and orders for the regular government of the ferry.

The ferry keeper has the privilege to dredge for oysters, exclusive of all others, within the compass of the ferry loop, which extends one tow's length, that is, sixty fathoms on either side of the cable. Some years back, he was disturbed in this right by some of the Queenborough dredgers, who being called to account for the trespass, paid the charges, and submitted without standing a trial.

For the space of more than eighty years after the last-mentioned Act of Parliament, there was little resort to this ferry, except from the private business of the inhabitants of the island; but since the erection of a fort, and appointing a garrison at

Sheerness, together with the dockyard, a branch of the ordnance, and other appendages necessary thereto, the traffic to and from the island has greatly increased, and with it, the expense of maintaining this ferry, and the roads leading thither, of which there are three principal. The first, southward to the town of Milton; the second, towards the south, through Iwade and Bobbing, into the great Dover road at Key street; and the third, towards the south-west, through Halstow and Upchurch, towards Gillingham and Chatham.

There are two other ferries, of less account, to and from this island, one in the Island of Elmley, and the other in that of Harty; but these are only for foot passengers and cattle.

There have been several commissions granted from time to time to different persons, to view and repair the banks and sea-walls of Sheppey, the earliest of which was in the 27th of King Edward III.; in the 12th year of which reign, that prince directed his writs to the bishop of Rochester, Roger de Northwoode, the prior of Rochester, the abbot of Boxley, Thomas de Cobham, Stephen de Cobham, Philip de Pympe, Stephen de Ashburie, Humphrey de Northwoode, and Ralph de Savage, all landholders in this island. It is also related, among other matters, that intelligence having been received that the island would soon be invaded by the forces of the enemy, the king commanded them to have their men at arms, and archers ready, according to the quantity of lands and tenements each of them possessed therein, together with the men of the island and other landholders, for the safety thereof, against the impending danger.

Richard II., in his 1st year, directed his writs to the sheriffs of Kent and Essex, commanding them to erect *beacons* on the most conspicuous places near the coasts of the two counties, opposite to each other, that by the firings of the same, notice might be given of any sudden attempt of the enemy. In consequence of this, there were many erected, one in particular, in Sheppey, and at Showbery, in Essex, opposite to the same.

The Isle of Sheppey had formerly *a court of Hustings* belonging to it, wherein were heard all causes and pleadings, the laws, customs, rights, and franchises of this island, or whatever, in any shape, belonged or related thereto.

The cliffs on the northern side of Sheppey being composed of clay, and constantly washed at their base by the tides, are very

subject to fall, as before stated. These cliffs belong to the three manors of Minster, Shurland, and Warden, the owners of which let them out to the different proprietors of the copperas works, who employ the neighbouring poor to collect the *pyrites*, or copperas stones, upon the beach, which they deposit there in heaps, until a sufficient quantity is procured wherewith to load a vessel, when the cargo is conveyed away.

These cliffs also produce such a variety of fossils, both native and extraneous, as are hardly to be paralleled in the same space of ground, and the clay being continually washed away by the tides, they are left exposed on the beach, and usually picked up by the gatherers of copperas, who sell them to the curious. Those, however, found here, have been so much impregnated with *pyritical* matter, that after some time the salts shoot and entirely destroy them.

The late Mr. Jacob, of Faversham, well known to the learned as a curious antiquary and naturalist, printed at the end of his *Plantæ Favershamiensis*, a concise view of the fossil bodies of this island, collected during the space of thirty years; and in the Philosophical Transactions is an account of some fossil fruits and other bodies, found by that writer in the Island of Sheppey, A.D. 1757.

The curious investigator of natural history, who travels through this district, will undoubtedly receive additional pleasure in the observations he must be continually induced to make on the variety of curious plants to be found growing over the whole surface of the soil, the descriptions of which are too numerous for insertion here. Mr. Jacob has published a catalogue of such as he observed in the long progress of his scientific researches.

Dr. Plot observes that there are very few rats or moles in the Isle of Sheppey, a circumstance he accounts for in consequence of the earth being full of copperas stones, which are poisonous to those reptiles; for the same reason mice abound here, which are generally found in greater numbers where there are no rats.

THE ISLAND OF SHEPPEY, from its situation, was, in ancient times, much exposed to the invasions of those nations that infested this kingdom. The Saxons, indeed, resorted to the Isle of Thanet; but the Danes, in general, made this island their landing-place, and frequently remained here whole winters,

so that it became their accustomed rendezvous, and was therefore incessantly exposed to scenes of misery and plunder. Though the Danes had harassed the coasts of Britain for some years previous to the accession of Egbert to the English monarchy, these parts, nevertheless, remained free from their piracies till 832, when landing on this island, and having no design of making conquests, they accomplished their purpose of plundering it, as also the neighbouring country, and then returned to their ships.

In 849, the Danes are again stated to have wintered here; after which, there is no further notice taken by our ancient historians of their having visited Sheppey, which, most probably, they did from time to time, whensoever they made incursions into these parts. It appears that this island shared in the general devastation made of the county of Kent by those piratical plunderers till 1016, when King Edmund having encountered Canute, with the Danish army, at Otford, and gaining a victory, pursued the Danes as far as Aylesford, in their retreat to this island, where they collected the scattered remains of their army.

In the lower or southern part of this isle there are many large barrows or *tumuli*, which the inhabitants call *coterels*, supposed to be the graves of several of the Danish leaders who were slain during their invasions of this kingdom. Offa king of Mercia, one of the most powerful princes of the Saxon heptarchy, who died in 796, is thought by some to have died in this island, on his return from Rome, whither he had journeyed on a pilgrimage.

Elizabeth, widow of Francis Lennard lord Dacre, who died in 1662, sister and coheir of Paul viscount Banning, was by letters patent, in 1680, created countess of Shepey, for her life. She died in 1686, and Thomas Lennard lord Dacre, her eldest son, was, in 1673, created earl of Sussex.

Henry, youngest son of Robert Sidney, earl of Leicester, was, in 1689, being the 1st of William and Mary, created baron of Milton and viscount Sidney of the Isle of Sheppey, and in 1694, earl of Romney. He died unmarried in 1704, and was buried in St. James's church, Westminster; upon which, his titles became extinct.

John de Shepey, LL. D., a native of this island, was first a

Drawn by T. M. Baynes.

Engraved by H. Adlard.

MINSTER, ISLE OF SHEPPY.

KENT.

prebendary, and then dean of the cathedral church of Lincoln, who dying in 1412, was interred there. He was a man of some note in the reigns of Edward III. and Richard II., having been employed by both those princes in their most important affairs, both at home and abroad.

THE ISLAND OF SHEPPEY is almost entirely within the hundred of Middleton or Milton, a small part only being within the parish of Eastchurch, in the hundred of Tenham, and the Island of Harty, which is within the hundred of Faversham, as will be further adverted to.

It contains within its bounds THE PARISHES OF MINSTER, with THE VILLE OF SHEERNESS, QUEENBOROUGH, EASTCHURCH, WARDEN, LEYSDOWN, ELMLEY AND ITS ISLE, AND HARTY WITH ITS ISLE. The churches of those parishes are all within the hundred of Milton, excepting the church of *Harty*, which is within the hundred of Faversham. That part of the hundred of Milton within the Island of Sheppey, is within the jurisdiction of one constable, appointed for the same at the court-leet held for the manor and hundred of Milton, and is therein styled the liberty of Sheppey.

MINSTER is the principal parish in the Island of Sheppey, lying on high ground, near the middle of the north side of the same.

The parish derives its name from the monastery founded very early, *Minstre*, in the Saxon, signifying a monastery or religious house. The manor of Newington claims over a small part of this parish, but the *paramount manor* over the whole extent is that of Milton. THE PARISH OF MINSTER is by far the largest of any in the island. The village is situated on high ground, near the centre, with the church and ruins of the monastery; but close on the northern side of the latter very little is now remaining.

THE VILLE OF SHEERNESS is situated at the western bounds of this parish, having been formerly accounted as part of this parish; it has, however, long since been made a *ville* of itself, and its civil jurisdiction quite separate.

The cliffs on the northern side of the island likewise constitute the boundaries of the parish; Queenborough and Sheer-

ness bounding it towards the west, and the Swale and Island of Elmley in a southward direction.

In June 1756, a monstrous fish, thought to be a young whale, was driven on shore at this place. It measured thirty-six feet and upwards in length, twenty-two in circumference, and eight from the eyes to the tip of the nose. It is said to have yielded twenty hogsheads of oil.

Edward III., in his 17th year, granted a fair to be held here on Palm Monday, which is still continued, for the sale of toys, &c.

Sexburga, one of the daughters of Annas king of East Anglia, and widow of Ercombert king of Kent, in 664, having obtained lands in this parish of her son, King Egbert, founded a MONASTERY here, which she finished and endowed, for seventy-seven nuns, whom she placed therein. King Egbert himself added land thereto, that princess having been the first abbess. Soon after, about the year 675, she resigned her government to her daughter, Ermenilda, who was the second abbess, but retired in 699 to the Isle of Ely, to the monastery, over which her sister presided.

During the time of the invasion of the Danes, the sisterhood of this monastery were subjected to continual acts of cruelty and oppression, and the house was at length destroyed, and the nuns dispersed. In that situation it seems to have remained till the reign of William the Conqueror, who, on the prioress of the nunnery of Newington, near Sittingbourne, being strangled in her bed, confiscated their possessions, and removed the few remaining nuns to this ruined monastery, which continued in a very bad condition till the year 1130, when it was re-edified, and replenished with Benedictine nuns by Archbishop Corboil, who dedicated it to St. Mary and St. Sexburgh.

In the 8th of Richard II., A.D. 1384, the temporalities of this monastery were valued at £66 8s., and the spiritualities at £73 6 8, total £139 14 8.

In the 27th of Henry VIII., when the Act passed for the suppression of all religious houses, this monastery was surrendered to the crown, when it was in such an impoverished state, that it contained only a prioress, and ten nuns; to the former, named Alicia Crane, the king granted a pension of £14 for her life.

The manor of Minster, otherwise Sexburg, was granted, together with the site of the monastery, to Sir Thomas Cheney, lord warden, and treasurer of the household, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service. He died in the 1st of Elizabeth, and was succeeded in his estates by his only son Henry, afterwards knighted, and created Lord Cheney, of Tuddington, who levied a fine of all his lands, and soon afterwards exchanged this estate, with the queen, for others elsewhere, though he subsequently possessed much land in this parish, which, as well as the rest of his estates, he was compelled to alienate, in consequence of the profuse manner in which he had lived.

After the above-mentioned exchange, the queen granted this manor, with the site of the monastery, to Sir Thomas Holey, of Bisham, in Berkshire, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Anthony Cook, of Giddy hall, in Essex, by whom he had two sons, Edward and Thomas, posthumous, both afterwards knighted. He died at Paris, where he was ambassador in 1566, leaving his wife pregnant there, with her second son. She conveyed his body to England, and having built a chapel on the south side of the church of Bisham, laid him in the vault beneath. He was succeeded in this manor and estate at Minster by his eldest son, Sir Edward Holey, who, as Camden styles him, was a famous and worthy knight, and constable of Dover castle, where he resided, as well as *custos rotulorum* for this county. The family of the Haby's bore for their arms, *Argent, three spindles in fess, gules, threaded, or,* being the bearings of Badland, the heiress of which their ancestor had married. The ancient arms of the Haby's were, *Gules, three halberts in pale, argent, three staves, or,* which they bore secondly. Sir Edward Hoby's arms are in a window of the Middle Temple hall, with his quarterings. He was at the taking of Cadiz, and chosen to serve in Parliament several times in the reign of Elizabeth, and under King James was made a gentleman of his privy chamber. He was a very learned man, and wrote several books, his death having occurred at Queenborough castle in 1616, not long before which period he had sold this manor and estate to Mr. Henry Richards, who gave it by will to Gabriel Livesey, esq., of Hollingborne, sheriff in 1618. He was descended from the family of the Levesey's, or Livesey's, originally of Livesey, in Lancashire. His father, Robert Livesey,

esq., was of Streatham, in Surrey, sheriff of Sussex and Surrey in 1592 and 1602, and left three sons, of whom Gabriel, above mentioned, was the youngest. They bore for their arms, *Argent, a lion rampant, gules, between three trefoils, slipt, vert.* His son, Sir Michael Livesey, about the year 1623, conveyed this manor, with the site of the monastery, to Sir John Haywood, of Hollingborne hill, second son of Sir Rowland Haywood, citizen and alderman of London. He died in 1636, and settled it by will in 1635 upon his two feoffees, Richard Buller, esq. of Cornwall, and Mr. Sergeant Clerk, of Rochester, *in trust for such charitable uses* as they should think proportionate to the profits of the estate from time to time, and in that state it continued. The trustees of this charity, in 1651, in pursuance of the will of Sir John Hayward, settled £50 per annum for the relief of the poor of the parish of St. Nicholas, in Rochester, to be paid out of this manor, and other premises in Sheppey; but these estates still increasing in value, the residuary trustee, in 1718, purchased out of the profits £636 South Sea stock, which he transferred to the mayor and citizens of Rochester, for the perpetual support of three charity schools in that city, and in Stroud.

Newhall, otherwise Borstal, is a small manor in this parish, which, in the 9th of Edward II., was in the possession of Fulk Peyforer, who died the same year. From the above name it passed into that of Potyn, one of whom, Nicholas Potyn, was possessed of it in the reign of Richard II. and left one daughter Juliana, who carried it in marriage to Thomas St. Leger, of Otterden, second son of Ralph St. Leger, of Ulcomb, whose daughter and heir Joan, carried it in marrige to Henry Aucher, esq. of Newenden. He passed away this manor before the end of the reign of Henry V., to Sir William Cromer, lord mayor of London who died possessed of it in 1433. He, as well as his descendants, possessors of this manor, resided at Tunstall, one of whom, William Cromer, esq., engaging in the rebellion raised by Sir Thomas Wyatt, in the 1st of Queen Mary, was attainted, by which this manor, among the rest of his estates, became forfeited to the crown, whence it was soon after granted by the queen to Sir Thomas Cheney, knight of the Garter, and treasurer of the Household, who died possessed of it in the 1st of Queen Elizabeth, and was succeeded by his only son Henry,

afterwards knighted, and created Lord Cheney, of Tuddington.

He levied fines of all his lands, in the 17th of Elizabeth, and in the 20th of that reign alienated the manor of Newhall to Richard Luck, whose son, of the same name, sold it to Mr. Henry Newton, and he soon after passed it to Mr. Josias Gering, who was possessed of it at the restoration of Charles II. After that period it passed into the name of Randal, the last of whom, Mr. Thomas Randal, devised it by will to Mr. John Swift, who rebuilt the largest part of this seat, and resided there.

Rushindon, formerly called *Rossingdone*, is a manor here, which, in the reign of Henry II. seems to have been in the possession of that prince, who gave to the church of the Holy Trinity, now Christ church, Canterbury, £15 rent in Ressendon, and other places in this neighbourhood. After that it went into the possession of the family of the Savage's, seated at Bobbing, in this county, one of whom, John le Sauvage, obtained a charter of *free warren* for his lands here, among others, in the 23d of Edward I. Of one of his descendants it was purchased by Queen Philippa, wife of Edward III., who settled it, together with the farm of Dandely, in this parish, on the master and brethren of the royal hospital of St. Katharine, near the tower of London, and their successors, towards the enlarging and better endowing of that hospital, to hold to them in pure and perpetual alms.

By a survey remaining in the First-Fruits office, taken in the 26th of Henry VIII., this manor of Rossingdone was valued at £20, and the farm of Dandely at £8 yearly income.

This hospital escaped the general suppression in the reigns of Henry VIII. and Edward VI., and consisted of a master, three brethren priests, three sisters, and ten beadswomen, with officers and servants, to whom the fee of this manor, with Dandely, and other estates in this parish, afterwards belonged, but the possession of them was leased at an annual reserved rent, for three lives to different tenants.

This estate was held of the hospital in the 14th of Richard II. by John of Gaunt, the king's uncle, and in later times by decree, for three lives afterwards, by Adam Edwards, since that by Caleb Banks, esq. of Maidstone, by one of the coheirs of whose son, Sir John Banks, bart., his interest herein went in marriage

to Heneage Finch, created earl of Aylesford. His eldest son, Heneage Finch, under George I. having procured an Act for the purpose, passed away his interest in this manor to his next brother, the Hon. John Finch, whose only son, Savile Finch, esq. died in 1788, when his heirs became possessed of his interest in the lease.

The Farm of Dandele, above mentioned, is situated in the western part of this parish. In the reign of Edward VI. it was in the possession of Sir Thomas Seymour, Lord Seymour, and lord high admiral of England, who, being attainted in the 3d year of that reign, this, among the rest of his possessions, became forfeited to the crown, whence it was granted the same year to Sir Thomas Cheney, knight of the Garter, &c. to hold *in capite* by knight's service. He was succeeded by his only son Henry, afterwards knighted, and created Lord Cheney, of Tuddington, who, in the 3d of that reign, had possession granted of all his lands, and among them, of a house and 300 acres of land and marsh, called Daunley, with their appurtenances in Minster, parcel of the possessions of St. Catherine's, in the tenure of Thomas Harris and Thomas Horton, held of the king *in capite* by knight's service.

He levied a fine that year of all his lands, as he did again in the 17th of the same reign, and soon after sold his interest in this estate to one Livesey, who parted with it about the year 1604, to Sir Julius Cæsar, master of the rolls, under treasurer of the Exchequer, and privy counsellor, and he, the next year, settled it on his eldest son, Charles Cæsar, esq. He was afterwards knighted, and succeeded his father as master of the rolls, having been of the privy council, both to King James and Charles I. He died in 1643, and was buried in the church of Benington, in Hertfordshire, having been twice married; first, to Anne, daughter of Sir Peter Vanlore, by whom he had three daughters, Jacomina, wife of Henry Anderson, esq. of Pendley, the second daughter married to Henry Levingston, esq. of Hampshire, and the third was Anne. He married, secondly, Anne, daughter of Sir Edward Barkham, lord mayor of London, by whom he left two sons, Sir Henry, of Benington, and Charles, of Much Haddon, in Hertfordshire. His lady survived him, and possessed his interest in this estate, of which she died possessed in 1661, the property being at that time part of the possessions of St. Catherine's

hospital, of whom it was afterwards held by — Garret, when Charles Garret passed away his interest herein to Philip Crespigny, esq., whose descendant, Philip Champion Crespigny, esq., became the lessee.

NEATS, otherwise *Neat's court*, is a manor in this parish, which, in the reign of Elizabeth, was in the hands of the crown, and granted by that princess to Robert Merrywether, for a term only, as, in the 17th year of that reign, it was again in the queen's hands. She then granted it, at the yearly rent of £70, for a term of years, to John Bode, and Elizabeth his wife, after which, the fee simple remaining in the crown was, by Charles I., in his 1st year, settled, on his marriage with Queen Henrietta Maria, on her as part of her dower.

Her trustees afterwards granted a lease of the manor house, and lands belonging thereto, in the 14th of Charles I., in consideration of £450 fine, the surrender of a former lease, and £70 0 0½ rent per annum, to Sir Edward Hales, knight and baronet, for three lives, a reserve being made out of the grant of all courts baron and leets, advowsons, mines, quarries, &c.

After the death of Charles I., A.D. 1648, the powers then in being seized on the royal estates, and passed an ordinance to vest them in trustees, that they might be surveyed and sold. Accordingly, from the survey taken in 1650, it appeared that the number of acres then belonging to this estate were 649, while the yearly improved rental amounted to £380 3s., and that the three lives above mentioned were then subsisting. Soon after that period, the fee of this estate was, by them, sold to Edward Downton and Edward Finch, with whom it continued till the restoration of Charles II., A.D. 1660, when the inheritance again reverted to the crown. It subsequently passed to the name of Edwin Humphrey Edwin, esq., who owned the property, after which it was possessed by Mrs. Mary Edwin, of St. Alban's, Hertfordshire.

CALEHILL is another manor, which, in the reign of Henry VIII., was in the possession of William Bury, who, in the 37th year of the same monarch, conveyed it to that prince, in exchange for Culneham, in Oxfordshire.

This manor remained in the crown till the 3d of Philip and Mary, when it was granted, with divers lands and pastures, parcel of the same, to Sir Thomas Cheney, knight of the Garter,

to hold *in capite*, by knight's service. His only son and heir, Henry lord Cheney, of Tuddington, in the 3d of that reign, had possession granted of his father's estates, and, among others, of this manor called Calehill, with its appurtenances, in this parish, and several parcels of lands called NOTTS, MAYOTTS, and CHETERCROFT, in LEYSDOWNE, EASTCHURCH, and WARDEN, held of the king *in capite*, late parcel of the possessions of William Bury, merchant. After that period he exchanged Calehill, with the lands above mentioned, with the queen, among other estates in this parish and neighbourhood, when the fee remained vested in the crown till King James I., in his 2d year, granted it to Philip Herbert, younger brother of William earl of Pembroke, who was the following year created Lord Herbert, of Shurland, and earl of Montgomery. On his brother's death, without surviving issue, he succeeded him as earl of Pembroke, since which it descended in the same way as Milton manor, to the Right Hon. Philip viscount Wenman, and Mrs. Anne Herbert, but it has so long been blended with the rest of their possessions here, that the very name is forgotten, nor is the exact situation at present ascertained.

THE GOVERNORS of the CHEST for sick and maimed seamen, at Chatham, are possessed of lands here called SCOCHLES, containing, by estimation, 340 acres, which formerly belonged to the family of the Levesey's.

MINSTER is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sittingbourne. The church, dedicated to St. Mary and St. Sexburg, (as was also the monastery,) is supposed by some to have been the edifice appertaining thereto, while others conjecture that it only adjoined that structure. It consists of two aisles and two chancels, the steeple being at the west end, which presents a large square tower, with a turret at the top, in which is a clock, and a peal of bells. In the north chancel, on the south side, is the tomb of Sir Thomas Cheney, knight of the Garter, who was interred with great state in a chapel which had been the conventual church, adjoining the eastern part of this parish; but his son, Henry lord Cheney, in the reign of Elizabeth, obtained a licence for removing the coffins and bones of his father and ancestors thence, having sold the materials of the chapel to Sir Humphrey Gilbert, and he had them interred in this chancel. Under an arch

Drawn by. T.M.Baynes.

Engraved. by.J.Rogers.

SHEERNESS,

WITH THE FOUNTAIN INN, &c.

KENT.

in the wall, on the north side, upon a grey marble, is the figure of a man in armour, and, in the south or high chancel, an ancient tomb, with the effigies of a man lying at length, cross-legged, armed at all points; on his right side is the figure of a horse's head, carved also in alabaster, and fixed to the tomb, concerning which many idle tales are current. On a stone in the middle of the chancel are the figures, in brass, of a man and woman, the former being in armour, and cross-legged, with large spurs, the sword at his side, his coat of arms presenting, *Ermine, a pale engrailed,* the rest obliterated; on her mantle, *three bars, wavy*; beneath his feet is *a lion*, and under hers *a talbot,* the inscription being gone, except the word *Hic* at the commencement. At the upper end of the north aisle is a small stone, seemingly very ancient, whereon is *a cross bottany.*

In 1489 there was a chapel dedicated to St. John the Baptist, situated within the cemetery of Minster, in Sheppey.

The parsonage consists of a house and some barns, with 188 acres of arable, meadow, and pasture land, together with the great and small tithes of the parish, of every description.

The ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of this parish extends over the *ville of Sheerness*, which, being very populous, adds greatly to the burials, insomuch so, that, in some years of late, they have amounted to between 200 and 300.

The church of Queenborough was formerly esteemed as a chapel to this church, but it has long since been independent of the same. The cure is still esteemed as a *donative*, the yearly stipend of the curate being £16 13 4.

In 1578 the communicants were 308.

In 1640 the stipend of the curate was £16 13 4, and the communicants 265. It is not in charge in the king's books.

In 1821 there were 1228 dwellings in the parish of Minster; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 3868, females 3729, making a total of 7597 souls.

SHEERNESS. This ville lies west of the parish of Minster, at the north-west point of the isle of Sheppey. It was once esteemed a member of that parish, but has long since been created a *ville* of itself, and entirely separated from it as to its

civil jurisdiction, though, in an ecclesiastical light, it still continues part of the same.

This portion of the island of Sheppey was, in the reign of Charles I., no more than a watery swamp, or morass, on the point of which, after the restoration of Charles II., was mounted a small fort of twelve guns, to defend the passage up the Medway. In that situation it remained till the Dutch war broke out in the same reign, when the sentiment of the whole kingdom turned on the importance of this place, and the erection of a royal fort, which might preserve the navy, and at the same time prove a great security to the river.

The king took this charge upon himself, and at the beginning of 1667 made two journeys hither in the depth of winter, accompanied by an engineer, and some officers of the ordnance, when, having witnessed the commencement of the work, he left his chief engineer, Sir Martin Beckman, whom he designed governor of the fort, to whose charge he committed the overlooking the whole. In order, therefore, that every expedition might be used, he also named a commissioner of the ordnance; notwithstanding which, very little or nothing was effected towards its completion, when the Dutch, the same year, made their memorable attack upon the royal navy in the river Medway, which was then in a most defenceless state, there being only at that time, in addition to the twelve guns previously mentioned, four that could be used at Upnor, and scarcely as many at Gillingham, for its defence.

One or two companies of soldiers were stationed here under excellent officers, but the fortifications proved so weak and unfinished, and all other provisions so entirely destitute, that, although the best defence was made, no sooner did the Dutch fleet appear within sight, but, with their cannon, they beat down the works, drove the men from their ground, and landed a considerable force, with the apparent intention of fortifying and keeping possession of the place. Having effected this, they sailed up the river, broke through every impediment raised to oppose them, and after doing considerable damage to the shipping, again fell down the stream without any further molestation, embarking all their men from Sheerness, when they sailed for the coasts of Essex and Suffolk. This bold attempt created so much alarm throughout the nation, as well on account of the

Drawn by J. M. Paynes.

Engraved by T. Garner.

DOCK YARD, SHEERNESS,

KENT.

Drawn by T.M.Baynes.

Engraved by J.Rogers

SHEERNESS,
FROM THE PIER.
KENT.

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safety of the royal docks and magazines at Chatham, as the navy itself, owing to the defenceless state of the river Medway, that the fort of Sheerness was immediately constituted a regular fortification, and became *a royal fort;* a line of large and heavy cannon was there mounted; in addition to which there were other smaller forts erected on either side of the river, higher up, for its future defence. Great improvements were then made, from time to time, to the fort of Sheerness; more especially of late years, as will be mentioned hereafter; so that no fleet, however formidable, can in future attempt to pass, without imminent peril; added to which, in the event of any threatened danger, an Act passed in 1782 for the more effectual security of this important spot.

The fort and garrison of Sheerness is under the command of a governor, a lieutenant governor, a fort major, and other inferior officers. The salary of the former was £300 per annum, and of the latter £182 10s.

Some years after the building of the fort, an adjacent *royal dock* was formed, chiefly intended for the repairing of ships which might have experienced any sudden damage, as well as for the building smaller ships of war, such as fifth and sixth rates, small frigates, yachts, and other vessels, though sometimes ships of a larger size were built at Sheerness. This yard, in time of peace, is under the inspection of the commissioner of the navy, residing at Chatham, who has many officers under him; but in time of war, in consequence of the great increase of business, an extra commissioner has been appointed, who constantly resides there, the office of ordnance having also a branch established at this place.

The great scarcity of fresh water had always been most sensibly felt by the inhabitants of this town, which induced government, in 1782, to endeavour to procure supplies of that necessary element, by sinking a well; in which attempt it was not disappointed; for when the workmen, under the direction of Sir T. Hyde Page, of the corps of engineers, had dug to the depth of 328 feet, the augur dropped, and the water instantly gushed up, and rose 265 feet, which was within sixty-three of the top of the well.

In the first instance, the taste of the water was soft and pleasant and, although very thick, soon became clear and fit for use, in

which state it continued to afford a plentiful supply to the ordnance and barrack department. Prior to the above resource, the population of Sheerness depended mostly to their saving rain water and a supply from Chatham. Since the above period wells have been sunk in the towns and dockyard, the former supplying the inhabitants, and the latter the dockyard and the navy.

The old ships of war stationed here were formerly termed breakwaters, owing to their breaking the violence of the tides, the hulls of which are occupied by sixty or seventy families, brick chimneys being raised from the lower gun decks, which give to the whole the appearance of a floating town.

In 1809 government resolved to enlarge the dockyard at Sheerness, for docking first rates, and an old ship was fitted up capable of containing 500 convicts employed upon the works. It was also intended to have erected a bridge over the Swale, at the King's Ferry, to the opposite shore in Sheppey, which would have proved of great public utility, but the plan was never put into effect.

In 1814, owing to the indefatigable zeal displayed by Lord Viscount Melville, then first Lord of the Admiralty, the first stone of this colossal undertaking was laid by that nobleman, in presence of an immense concourse of spectators, on which occasion a sumptuous entertainment was given, when, in order to render the fête more impressive, every convict labouring in the dockyard participated in his lordship's liberality, by receiving one shilling per man.

The stupendous works for some years in a state of progress at Sheerness, had arrived to a great state of forwardness in 1822, when the bas inproved capable of containing twelve line-of-battle ships; there were also three new docks for first rates nearly completed, while the surrounding works, buildings, store-houses, &c. were the produce of succeeding years. A stone wall 800 feet long runs collateral with the town pier, and projects into the Medway, forming an extensive wharf for landing and shipping of goods, while that portion of the wall stretching from south to north extends upwards of 3000 feet. This vast labour was originally commenced under the direction and plans of the late General Bentham, and afterwards superintended by the late J. Rennie, esq., now presenting the finest dockyard in

the kingdom. This noble undertaking was opened in 1823, and owing to the works being entirely constructed upon a quick sand forty feet deep, the greatest credit was due to the genius and talents of the above-mentioned engineers.

In consequence of the bad foundation, the walls forming the front of the river were composed of hollow masses, supported by inverted arches and numerous piles from twenty-five to thirty feet in length, which by having an extended base were infinitely stronger. The works comprise a basin 520 feet long and 300 wide, with a depth of twenty-seven feet water, capable of floating line-of-battle ships fully equipped for sea. The entrance to the basin is closed by a caissoon, with proper shields, for regulating the water within, and is easily removed at pleasure. Adjacent to the basin are three docks for first rates, 245 feet long, ninety wide, and thirty-one deep, having immense iron gates at their entrances fifty-seven feet wide, the docks being capable of receiving a first rate man-of-war with all her guns and stores, at low water. These gates are constructed in a most ingenious manner, being chiefly formed of cast iron weighing 160 tons each pair. The whole of the docks communicate by tunnels, with steam engines of fifty horse power, whereby the water may be pumped from one of the dry docks in four hours and a half.

Near the centre of the dockyard is an immense quadrangular storehouse, 331 feet by 216, the foundation of which, unlike those of other structures of a similar description, contains upwards of 6000 piles from twenty-five to thirty feet long, with cills and plank, the underground, or base work, having expended upwards of 6,000,000 of bricks, the inverted arches being set in Roman cement. At the back of this structure is the Smithery, 225 feet long by ninety wide, wherein are fabricated anchors, chain cables, and all the metal materials requisite for the fitting out a man-of-war ; the bellows of this manufactory are to be blown by a steam engine. Southward of the building last described is a range of saw pits, timber sheds, &c. 440 feet long by forty feet wide, having all the requisite storehouses and work shops, mould loft, &c. Behind the latter range is the navy well, with an immense cast-iron cistern, before adverted to, calculated to supply the houses of the Admiralty, commissioners, officers, &c. The depth of the well is 365 feet, and the

diameter eight feet, the whole erected in Roman cement. South west of the wall are two fifty horse power engines employed in emptying the docks when required; fronting which is the mast store, 212 feet long by 112 wide, under which are the mast locks, and a mast pond in front capable of containing unworked timber for upwards of 500 masts. In front of the last mentioned structure is the working mast house of the same dimensions as the mast store, with a slip at the front and back wherein the masts are constructed. Proceeding in our description of this wonderful combination of genius, art, labour, and perseverance, we must next advert to the tunnel formed to float all the timber required in constructing masts, yards, &c. The entrance to this tunnel is by the segment of a circle, with two pair of iron gates; the one to repel, and the other a receiver of the water. We now proceed in a right line over the caissoon to the victualling store, which stands upon 2600 piles of the dimensions previously described. The extent of this fabric is 175 by 111 feet, the whole supported by inverted arches set in Roman cement, by which the navy is supplied with water from the well previously mentioned. Northward of the building last described are the principal offices erected for the reception of the officers connected with this establishment, and opposite is the boat house, with a slip in front 150 feet long by eighty wide, for the building and repairing all boats required by the navy.

We shall now terminate our elaborate description of this wonderful effort of human ingenuity by crossing the frigate docks, graving and building slips, and proceed to the ordnance department, presenting to the view on the left a magnificent storehouse for the ordnance department, 180 by 160 feet. Fronting is the mansion erected for the port admiral, a building in every respect appropriated for the residence of one of the brave defenders of England's independence and glory. This mansion contains two superb state rooms appropriated for the accommodation of the royal family should they deign to honour this rising town by their distinguished presence. Adjoining the admiral's dwelling are the military barracks, and a beautiful guard house, the whole affording ample accommodations for 600 troops. The buildings that formerly constituted the barracks are nearly all now pulled down.

The residence allotted for the commissioner is extremely com-

Drawn by T.M.Baynes. Engraved by H.Adlard.

QUEENBOROUGH, ISLE OF SHEPPY.

KENT.

modious, and, in short, every requisite accommodation is found in the provision made for the several persons connected with this establishment.

A very neat and commodious chapel was erected by government for the use of the garrison, the naval and military department, and all persons connected with the first dockyard in his majesty's dominions. The building in question was raised under the superintendence of J. W. Taylor, esq., surveyor.

In 1828 government having determined on further improvements at Sheerness, purchased from eighty to ninety acres of land, for the purpose of raising a line of fortification on the outside of Miletown, and a ditch is now completed the whole extent of the line from the beach towards the Nore, to a fleet running to the sea wall towards the Medway. The ditch constitutes the line of demarcation, and forms the outer edge of a moat which environs the works. It may be necessary to state that this grand nursery of the bulwark of England has caused an expenditure of nearly four millions sterling.

The Blue Town pier is to be further improved, the sum of £2000 having been already advanced to purchase materials for that purpose.

In the progress of this stupendous undertaking, too much praise cannot be conferred on the late J. Rennie, esq., engineer; J. S. Taylor, esq., surveyor; John Thomas, esq. resident engineer; Sir Edmund Banks, bart., acting manager, — Jolliffe, esq., and — Nicholson, esq. To Sir E. Banks, bart., in particular, as contractor and superintendent of the whole dockyard every encomium is due, for the skill displayed in accomplishing the great task imposed upon him. It is however sufficient to state, as regards the latter gentleman, that he was builder of that matchless piece of architecture, Waterloo Bridge, and is now employed in the erection of the new London Bridge. To this spirited gentleman Miletown stands indebted in the erection of Edward Street, a Crescent erected in 1827, and a beautiful residence for himself, with gardens most tastefully arranged, the whole having been erected as by magic from a dreary swamp. It may not be improper here to remark, that one of the most extraordinary circumstances connected with the dockyard at Sheerness is its having been

formed on a complete morass; the excavations from the various proceedings required having caused an accession of soil from ten to twelve feet above the original level of the swamp. While pursuing the excavations many vestiges of antiquity were discovered, and among the foundations of the old church were dug up the major part of the form of our Saviour carved in oak, which had formerly adorned a cross; it is of great antiquity, and preserved by Mr. Green, of the Duke of Clarence Inn, Blue Town.

In 1827 a fire broke out in that part of Sheerness called Blue Town, which destroyed between fifty and sixty houses; and on the 8th of January, 1830, another conflagration took place, whereby no less than fifty dwellings were consumed by the devouring element.

That part of the Isle of Sheppy called Minster and East Church, has, for some years past, been very much encroached upon, either by the sea or the operations of the land-springs. This has encreased of late years, as it is supposed that in 1829 nearly half an acre was carried off, which gradual diminution still continues.

In pursuance of an Act of Parliament, passed in 1829, Miletown is now completely paved, lighted, and watched.

Speaking of Sheerness as a place of pleasurable resort, we have to remark, that the water is transparently clear, and the beach excellent; there are, however, only two bathing machines for the accommodation of the inhabitants. We must confess we felt rather surprised that the laudable spirit evinced by Sir Edward Banks, bart., should not have prompted him to erect some saloon for public purposes; we mean assemblies, balls, concerts, meetings, dinners, &c.; as there does not appear to be a single apartment for such purposes either in Sheerness or Miletown, and we conceive that if undertaken, even in a pecuniary point of view, the speculation would be found to answer, from the numerous applications that must necessarily be made for such an accommodation.

In consequence of the introduction of steam packets, and the facilities thereby afforded of going from and returning to the metropolis, parties of pleasure being constantly formed during the summer season, much good might accrue to the

trade of Sheerness were proper measures adopted to bring it into vogue.

A market is held at Sheerness, weekly, on a Saturday.

According to the last census of the population, taken in 1821, there were in the ville of Sheerness fifty-eight dwellings, 426 males, 391 females, making a total of 817 souls.

It appears in the above government return, that the decrease of inhabitants in Sheerness ville is attributed to a reduction in the dockyard and ordnance establishments; the entire parish of Minster containing 8414 inhabitants.

Since the foregoing account of the dockyard at Sheerness, Bluetown, &c., was taken from actual survey, many new houses have been built at Miletown greatly tending to improve the appearance of the place. Admiral Beresford, now the port admiral, who is universally beloved, has taken up his residence at the splendid mansion fitted up by government at Garrison Point; where he sedulously employs himself in effecting various improvements in the dockyard. The military force stationed at this grand naval depot amounts to about 300 men.

LIST OF SHIPS IN ORDINARY, AT SHEERNESS,

ON THE 1ST OF JANUARY, 1831.

Rate.	Guns.	Names.
1	120	Prince Regent Flag ship.
	120	Howe.
		Royal George.
	106	Camperdown.
1	104	Temeraire.
		Depot for ordinary.
2	84	Formidable.
		Powerful.
	80	Cambridge.
3	78	Achille.
		Donegal: Guard ship.
	74	Black Prince.
		Defence.
		Devonshire.
3	74	Hawke.
		Hogue.
		Hercules.
		Minotaur.
		Poictiers.
		Redoubtable.
		Russell.
		Scarborough.
		Terrible:
		Receiving ship.
		Tremendous.
		Vengeur:
		Receiving ship.
		Wellington.

Rate.	Guns.	Names.
4	50	Conquestador.
		Cornwall.
5	46	Amazon.
		Æolus.
		Clyde.
		Crescent.
		Desirée:
		Slop ship.
		Dœdalus.
		Hebe.
		Horatio.
		Leonidas.
		Pegassus.
5	46	Rhin.
		Tartar.
		Tenedos.
		Venus.
	42	Aigle.
		Curaçoa.
		Havannah.
		Magicienne.
Cutter.		Magpie.
		Quail.
3		Lion: Sheer hulk.
		Retribution. } Convict
6		Wye. } hulks.

From the above list, the weight of metal carried by these ships of the line, when in commission, would amount to 3206 guns.

The parish of Queenborough lies the next adjoining south-westward from that of Minster, on the western shore of this island. It is a borough town, anciently called *Cyningburgh*, when it belonged to the Saxon kings, who had a castle here close to the entrance of the Swale, which was afterwards denominated the castle of Sheppey. On the site of that structure Edward III. erected a much larger edifice, and called this place Queenborough, in honour of Philippa, his consort. The building of this castle was commenced about the year 1361, and finished six years afterwards, being intended for the purpose of defending the realm, and as a refuge for the inhabitants of this island.

This building was completed under the inspection of William of Wickham, the king's architect, afterwards bishop of Winchester, who acquitted himself with his usual skill and abilities. Upon the completion of the fortress, the above monarch visited it, and remained here for some days, during which period he made this place *a free borough*, and by charter in 1366 created it a corporation, making the townsmen burgesses, and investing them with power to choose annually a mayor, and two bailiffs, who should proffer their oaths of allegiance before the constable of the castle, and be justices within the liberties of the corporation, exclusive of all others. They were also endowed with

cognizance of pleas, the liberty of two markets weekly, on Mondays and Thursdays, and two annual fairs, one on *the eve of our lady*, and the other *on the feast of St. James*, both being benefited with freedom of *tholle*, and many other privileges tending to augment the number of its inhabitants.

Richard II., in his 8th year, granted to Robert de Vere, earl of Oxford, all the rights and franchises of the castle of Queenborough, during the life of the said earl. Richard III., Henry VIII., and Elizabeth, repaired and beautified this castle: Johnson, in his *Descriptio Itinerus*, speaking of the building, particularly mentions a dining-room, as being very spacious and elegant, round which the arms of nearly all the nobility and gentry in the county were arranged, and those of Elizabeth in the centre, beneath which the following lines were written:

"Lilies the lion's virgin breast explain,
Then live a virgin, and a lion reign;
Pictures are pleasing, for the mind they shew,
And in the mind the Deity we view;
May she whom God in life and empire shews,
To me th' eternal Deity disclose!
May Jesse's flower and Judah's lion deign,
Thy flowers and lions to protect, great queen! A.D. 1593."

In 1650, after the death of Charles I., this castle was surveyed by order of Parliament, and found to be altogether useless, both from its situation as well as construction, having been built for the warfare of bows and arrows. The commissioners appointed for the survey reported that it consisted of twelve rooms of one range of buildings below stairs, and about forty rooms from the first story upwards, those being circular and composed of stone, with six towers and offices, the roof covered with lead. Within the circumference of the castle was one small round court, paved; and in the centre, one large well; outside the castle was a great court, both of which were environed by large stone walls, entirely moated round; the whole containing upwards of three acres of land. According to the report of those commissioners, it was worth about £1792, exclusive of the charge for pulling it down, and it was sold to Mr. John Wilkinson, who removed the materials. The well continues to be used, and, till 1818, was the only means whereby the inhabitants could obtain water; but at that period, on adopting the

boring system, good water was procured in other parts of the borough.

The constables of the castle were generally men of considerable rank and influence, John of Gaunt having held this office in the 50th of Edward III. In the reign of Elizabeth, the annual fee of the keeper of this castle was £29 2 6.

Although ranking a borough as early as the reign of Edward III., Queenborough did not return members to the legislature until the 13th of Elizabeth, A.D. 1571, at which time there were only twenty-three inhabited houses.

The principal source of employment for the inhabitants is the oyster fishery, established for centuries, and which had always been free and common to every burgess of the borough until 1820. This fishery was governed by the burgesses, assembled in courts-leet, from the earliest period down to 1728. At the above period, the seven benchmen, or corporation officers, usurped the power of governing the fisheries, without the intervention of the courts-leet, and numerous entries are to be found in the records of the corporation, whereby it may be plainly inferred that, previously, the fishery had been wholly under the direction of those courts, as the leet jury, till the time thus specified, had the sole management of the opening and shutting of the fishery, as well as the quantities to be taken. They also possessed the power of issuing orders for the preservation or placing of the brood or spat of oysters, and took up such persons as were guilty of any infringement of such regulations. In 1700, the mayor was twice fined for catching oysters; which fact strongly exemplified the power of the leet jury over the fishery, in defiance of the select body. The present corporation officers, not satisfied with the usurpation of their predecessors in 1728, used their utmost endeavours to reduce every freeman to the level of their servants. They claimed a right to control the fishery, and maintained that the freemen only were to be employed by them, attaching a penalty of £50 for non-compliance with this by-law, prohibiting any freeman, either by himself, apprentice, eldest son, or servant, from fishing or dredging within the fisheries of the said borough. A freeman, named Edward Skey, unwilling to loose the inheritance of his fathers, determined to continue his usual avocation of fishing, notwithstanding this threatening by-law; upon which the corporation

brought an action of debt against him at the autumn assizes, in 1827, at Maidstone; and after three days' trial, before Mr. Justice Park, the jury returned a verdict, that the by-law was unreasonable. Foiled in their attempts to compel the people to bend to their arbitrary power, they then had recourse to another expedient, in order to oppress the resident freemen, and instead of storing the oyster-ground at the accustomed time, suffered it to remain unstocked, by which means the resident population of the place had no employment during the winter months. The corporation officers subsequently got the freemen to sign a paper, acknowledging the impropriety of their conduct for the last seven years, and promising to conform to their by-law made on the 20th of June, 1820. It may be demanded what motive could induce the corporation to pursue this measure: our answer is, political influence: Queenborough is a government borough, the corporation officers are agents of the Treasury; of the 340 freemen, about 120 occupy government places; and of these about eighty only can vote at an election, the other forty being employed in the revenue department. There are also about thirty freemen, non-residents, totally unconnected with government; and those, with about 150 independent freemen, who are residents, were to be out-voted by the power of the corporation, otherwise the government patronage would be lost to them and theirs. In this dilemma the oyster-ground was seized upon, and their right to the same asserted by the by-law; in consequence of which, they were in hopes they should be enabled to compel the freemen to act according to their wishes. What still inclines us more to believe such was their intention, is this fact, that, at the general election, in March 1820, several of the resident freemen cut the name of the second candidate from the card, and placed another in its stead; and on the June following, the notable by-law made its appearance.

By the charter of Charles I., under date 1626, the burgesses in Parliament were chosen by the inhabitants, being about seventy in number, the returning officer to be mayor. It was, however, voted by the House of Commons, April 1729, that the right of election was vested in the mayor, jurats, and common council only, of this corporation.

QUEENBOROUGH is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDIC-

TION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sittingbourne. The church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, is a handsome building, consisting of one aisle and a chancel; it is decorated with a painted roof, and neatly kept, having been much embellished by Thomas King, esq., in 1695.

It was once accounted a chapel to the mother church of Minster, and belonged, with that structure, to the monastery of St. Sexburg, in the parish; but it has long since ranked as independent of the same. It is now esteemed as a *donative*, in the gift of the corporation of this place, being of the yearly certified value of £20 2 6.

The arms of the town are, *On a mount vert, a tower with five spires, argent.*

In 1821, there were 160 dwellings in the parish of Queenborough; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 400, females 481, making a total of 881 souls.

EASTCHURCH is the next parish eastward from Minster, and from the situation it occupies, derives the name. A small portion was anciently accounted to lie within the hundred of Tenham, though the whole is now esteemed as being within that of Milton.

THIS PARISH is situated on high ground, in the middle of the Island of Sheppey, and the village nearly in the centre, with the church at a small distance. About half a mile eastward, is the mansion of Shurland, that appears, from the remains, to have been a very grand and spacious structure. The front, which is lofty, is built of hewn stone, with a small octagon tower on either side of the principal entrance; it had formerly battlements, but the high winds having demolished several, the remainder were taken down. There was a quadrangle at the back of the building, the north-west side of which, with the front, above mentioned, are all the remains now left standing. The garden-walls, of stone, and some few of the outbuildings, still exist. The front has been modernised and sashed, and though made use of only as a farm-house, is not inferior to many gentlemen's seats in different parts of this county.

About the same distance, in the valley, stands the parsonage; the upland pastures are but poor, and nearly covered by large ant hills, which produce a very slovenly appearance. In the northern part of this district the corn lands are very fertile. Part of the parish extends southward into the Island of Elmley.

A fair is held in this village, on the 31st of May, for pedlary and toys.

The scarcity of fresh water in these parts and the neighbourhood makes the inhabitants very careful to preserve any rain that may fall, for which purpose there are numbers of spouts leading from the leads of the church into large tubs, set round in the churchyard beneath, which serve as conductors for the water; they have lids, secured with locks, for the use of those who are at the expense of putting them up; the whole producing a most grotesque and unsightly appearance.

Philip Herbert, younger brother of William earl of Pembroke, was, by letters patent, in the 3d of King James, created baron Herbert of Shurland, in this parish, and also earl of Montgomery.

The paramount manor of Milton claims over this parish; subordinate to which is the MANOR OF SHURLAND, having anciently had owners of this surname, the first of whom mentioned as having been of any note, was Sir Jeffrey de Shurland, who resided here in the reign of Henry III., in the 9th year of which prince he was governor of Dover castle. His son, Sir Robert de Shurland, was of some eminence in the reign of Edward I., under whom he was lord warden; and in the 28th year of the same monarch, attended him to the siege of Carlaverock, in Scotland, where he received knighthood. In the same reign he also obtained a grant of liberties, among which was wreck of the sea, for his manor here, as also *free warren;* soon after which he died, and was buried under a tomb within an arch, in the south wall of Minster church, with his effigies, in marble, lying at full length, and a horse's head, carved upon the tomb, on his right hand. The representation of the horse's head, which seems either part of the marble on which it lies, or at least to have been firmly fixed to the same when the tomb was erected, has given rise to an idle tale current among the common people for a long series of years, namely, that Sir Robert having, upon

some disgust entertained towards a priest, buried him alive, he swam on his horse two miles through the sea, to the king, who was then on shipboard, near the island; and, having obtained his pardon, returned to shore, when being told that his palfrey had performed the feat by magic, he cut off its head. About twelve months after, riding on a hunting party near the same spot, the horse he then rode stumbled, and threw him upon the skull of the former steed, whereby he was so much bruised, that his death was the consequence; in memory of which, the figure of a horse's head was ordered by him to be affixed to the tomb. The foundation of this legend is, with more probability, supposed to have arisen from Sir Robert Shurland having obtained the grant of wreck of the sea, as previously mentioned, which privilege is always esteemed to extend as far into the water as, upon the lowest ebb, a man can ride in and touch any thing with the point of his lance. On this account, the figure of the horse's head was, in all probability, placed near his effigy. He bore for his arms, *Azure, five lions rampant, argent, a canton ermine*, which arms are on the roofing of the cloisters of the Cathedral at Canterbury.

Sir Robert Shurland left an only daughter, Margaret, his heir, who married William, son of Sir Alexander Cheney, and entitled him to this manor, of which he died possessed in the 8th of Edward III., A.D. 1323. His grandson, Richard Cheney, of Shurland, married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Robert Cralle, of Cralle, in Sussex, by whom he had two sons, Sir William, of Shurland, and Simon, who was of Cralle, and ancestor of the Cheney's, of Higham, in this neighbourhood, and of Warblinton, in Sussex.

Sir William Cheney, the eldest son, possessed this manor, in whose descendants, knights of the shire and sheriffs of this county, it descended to Sir Thomas Cheney, who was a man of great account in his time. In the 7th of Henry VIII. he was sheriff of this county, and served several times in Parliament; he was also elected knight of the Garter in the same reign, and in the 31st year of that prince, as well as under his successor, Edward VI., his lands in this county were *disgaveled* by Acts passed under those monarchs. He was appointed by Henry VIII. constable of Queenborough castle, governor of Rochester, warden of the Cinque Ports, and treasurer of the household,

in which office he continued under Edward VI., being one of the privy council. On the demise of the latter prince, having espoused the cause of Queen Mary, he was again made lord warden; and under Queen Elizabeth he continued treasurer of the household, and one of her privy council. He rebuilt the mansion of Shurland with the materials of Chilham castle, where he had before resided, which edifice he is said to have pulled down. He continued to reside here with great hospitality till the period of his death, which happened in the Tower, in the 1st year of the last-mentioned queen, and was interred with great pomp and magnificence in a small chapel adjoining the parish-church of Minster. Henry Cheney, esq., his only son by his second wife, succeeded him at Shurland in the 5th of Queen Elizabeth. He was sheriff at this seat, when he received the order of knighthood; and in the 14th year of the same princess, was created lord Cheney of Tuddington, in Bedfordshire. Through his expensive method of living, he acquired the name of *the extravagant lord Cheney*, and previous to his death, had dissipated the vast possessions of his father; he died in the 30th of Elizabeth, A. D. 1587. Sir Thomas Cheney appears to have possessed some foreknowledge of the future extravagance of his son, for by will he devised his lands and manors to his son, Henry, in tail general, with remainder to Thomas Cheney, esq. of Woodley, in tail male, upon condition, that he or they, or any of them, should not alien or discontinue; wherefore it became a question, in the 33d and 34th of Elizabeth, in the court of Wards, between Sir Thomas Perot, heir general to Sir Thomas Cheney, and several of the purchasers of the lord Cheney his son, to restrain Thomas Cheney, of Woodley, and his heirs male. But Wray and Anderson, chief justices, upon a conference with other justices, resolved, that he should not be received to such averment out of the will, for that it ought to be concerning lands in writing, and that any construction of wills ought to be collected from the words of the will in writing, and not by any averment out of the same. In consequence of that resolution, the purchasers, under the lord Cheney's title, were established in their several possessions, which had been secured to them by fines levied by the lord Cheney, both in the 3d and 17th of Elizabeth, upon all his lands.

The Cheney's bore for their arms, *Argent on a bend, sable, three martlets, or;* which coat, on their marrying the heiress of Shurland, they bore in the second place, and that of Shurland, in honour of the alliance, in the first; but the lord Cheney bore his own coat in the first place, and that of Shurland second.

The lord Cheney, long before his death, having removed to Tuddington, where he had built a most magnificent seat, exchanged the manor and seat of Shurland, with other estates in the neighbourhood, with the queen, who, in 1593, granted a lease of Shurland, with other lands in Sheppey, to Sir Edward Hoby, then of Queenborough castle, lady Margaret his wife, and Thomas Posthumous, for their lives. Before that period, there had anciently been a park belonging to this seat, which was destroyed when Lambarde wrote his Perambulations, in 1570. The paling of part of that enclosure was still remaining when Hasted wrote. The fee, however, of this seat and estate remained in the crown till the reign of James I., who, in his 2d year, granted it to Philip Herbert, younger brother of William earl of Pembroke, who was the following year created lord Herbert of Shurland, and earl of Montgomery. On his brother's death, without surviving issue, as previously mentioned, he succeeded him as earl of Pembroke; since which this estate has continued in his descendants in like manner as that of Milton, down to the Right Hon. Philip viscount Wenman and Mrs. Anne Herbert, who subsequently possessed the same.

The tithes within this parish of the ancient lordship of Shurland belonged to the abbot and convent of St. Augustine, and their right to them was solemly adjudged by sentence given by Robert de Malmayns, commissary general, to Archbishop Walter Hubert, in the reign of Edward II. The whole of this manor claims an exemption from all kind of tithes at the present period.

Northwood is an eminent manor in this parish, which was in early times the inheritance of Jordan de Shepey, whose son, Stephen, having fixed his residence at the manor of Northwood, in the neighbouring parish of Milton, assumed the name of Northwood, which circumstance conferred that name on the manor, as part of his possessions; these two manors being afterwards distinguished in ancient records by the names of

the manor of Northwood within Sheppey, and *the manor of Northwood without Sheppey*.

Jordan de Shepey died possessed of this property, and was buried in Minster church, where his tomb still remains, without any inscription or memorial, though it had, at one period, the coat armour which this family afterwards bore.

Stephen de Northwood, his son above mentioned, succeeded him, and resided at his manor of Northwood, in Milton, as did most of his descendants afterwards. His son, Roger de Northwood, lies buried in the south chancel of Minster church, with the figures of himself and the Lady Bona his wife, in brass, their arms appearing on the gravestone.

His grandson, Sir John de Northwood, of Northwood and Shorne, was several times sheriff of this county, and summoned to Parliament among the peers of the realm. He died in the reign of Edward II. holding this manor of the king *in capite*, as of his manor of Middleton. His descendant, Sir John, appears to have been the last of this family who received summons to Parliament, and he died in the reign of Richard II., being then possessed of this manor held of the king in manner before mentioned.

At length one of his descendants, John Northwood, esq., about the reign of Edward IV., alienated this manor to William Warner, esq., whose grandson, of the same name, succeeding in the reign of Henry VIII. soon after sold it to Sir Thomas Cheney, afterwards knight of the Garter, whose only son, Henry lord Cheney, of Tuddington, in the 3d of Elizabeth, having levied a fine of all his estates, quickly afterwards exchanged this manor with Shurland and other premises, with the crown, where it remained till the reign of James I. He, in his 2d year, granted it to Philip Herbert, younger brother of William earl of Pembroke, created Lord Herbert of Shurland, and earl of Montgomery. It subsequently descended to Philip viscount Wenman, and Mrs. Anne Herbert, who possessed this estate in moieties.

KINGSBOROUGH is a manor in this parish, which, as the name denotes, was always part of the possessions of the crown, and, being situated in the very midst of the island, is a most commodious spot for assembling the inhabitants. It has ever been, and still continues frequented for the holding of the

general court and law day, in the king's name yearly, before the steward, and homage there sworn for the choice of the constable who has jurisdiction over the island, and for the election of the bailiff, or ferry warden as he is usually called, and two ferrymen. Here also takes place the assessing of rates, and other matters relating to the ferry between this island and the main land, the maintenance of that, and the roads leading thereto, all which were established and enforced by an Act passed in the 18th of Queen Elizabeth, previously mentioned under the description of the ferry itself.

But the DEMESNE LANDS of this manor, called *Kingsborough Farm,* lying in this parish and Minster, were granted by Elizabeth, to Henry Cary, esq., afterwards Lord Hunsdon, who, in the beginning of the reign of James I., passed it away by sale to one Swaleman. In his descendants it remained at the death of Charles I., A.D. 1648, soon after which it was sold by Mr. Thomas Swaleman, to Mr. Henry Allard of Rochester, in whose name it continued till Sarah Allard passed it away to Benjamin Martin, who conveyed it to Mr. Dansey Sawkins, in whose two daughters the property then became vested.

Sir Brook Bridges was possessed of a good estate in this parish, and Samuel Elias Sawbridge, esq. of another, called *Swanley,* in the northern part of the same, being a portion of that purchased by his father of James West, esq.

EASTCHURCH is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sittingbourne. The church, dedicated to All Saints, is a large handsome building, consisting of three aisles and three chancels, with a flat roof, leaded, and surrounded with battlements. The inside of the roof is wainscotted and painted, and the interior handsomely paved with east-country oak. The steeple, which is at the west end, consists of a square tower, containing five bells.

The present church appears to have been erected subsequent to the 9th of Henry VI., as a patent existed, under that date, for a piece of land in this parish, to the abbot and convent of Boxley, for the building a new church.

In the 8th of Richard II., A.D. 1384, this church was valued at £33 6 8, and was estimated in the king's books at £13 6 8, the yearly tenths being £1 6 8.

In 1640 the stipend to the curate was £20, and the communicants 156.

In 1821 there were ninety-seven dwellings in the parish of Eastchurch; and, at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 385, females 320, making a total of 705 souls.

WARDEN lies the next parish northward from EASTCHURCH, being usually called *Warne* by the inhabitants there, and in the neigbourhood.

THIS PARISH is situated on the northern side of the island, the cliffs constituting its northern boundary.

The village stands nearly in the centre, on high ground, with the church adjoining, near which the lands are mostly arable. In the south-west part, adjoining Eastchurch, is a great quantity of broom and furze, and below, in the vale, a large tract of good pasture. In a southeastern direction, next to Leysdown, is a deep watery vale, of nearly a mile in width, part of the same being salt marsh, and overflowed at high water, across which is the road from Warden to Leysdown.

THE PARAMOUNT MANOR OF MILTON claims over this parish, and *subordinate* is the MANOR OF WARDEN, which, in the reign of Edward I., was in the possession of the family of the Savage's, of Bobbing, one of whom, John le Sauvage, obtained a charter of *free warren* for his lands here, among others, in the 23d year of that reign.

In the 49th of Edward III., Sir Richard atte Lese was possessed of this estate, and by will, under Richard II., devised it to Dionisia, his wife, and, after her death, to Lucy Norton, his niece, then wife of John Norton, who was subsequently, in her right, also possessed of Lees court, in Sheldwich.

Their son, William Norton, esq. of Sheldwich, left two sons, Reginald, from whom the Norton's, of Northwood, were descended, and Richard, who inherited this manor by his father's will, in 1468. He was ancestor to those of Fordwich, in whose descendants it continued down to Valentine Norton, gent., of Fordwich, who, in the reign of Charles I., alienated it to William Tooke, of Dartford, fourth son of George Tooke, esq. of Bere court, near Dover. How long it continued in his line, we

cannot ascertain, however, after some intermediate owners, it was sold to Sir Thomas Stevens, high sheriff of Surrey in 1727, in which year he was knighted. He afterwards resided at Eltham, in this county, where he died in 1738, leaving one son, Thomas, and a daughter, Sarah, married the same year to James West, esq. of Lincoln's Inn.

Thomas Stevens, esq., succeeded his father in this manor, among the rest of his estates, and died in 1759, on which the property devolved to his sister, and heir at law, whose husband, James West, esq., in her right possessed the same. He was descended from a younger son of Thomas lord De la War, who, in the reign of Henry VIII., was a man of great note, and knight of the Garter, of Alscot, in Warwickshire. He was recorder of St. Alban's, secretary to the Treasury, and fellow of the royal Antiquarian Society, having borne for his arms those of Lord Delaware, his ancestor, *Argent, a fess dancette, sable.* He passed this manor by sale to John Sawbridge, esq. of Ollantigh, in this county, afterwards an alderman, and lord mayor of London, who died possessed of the estate in 1795, when it descended to his son, Samuel Elias Sawbridge, esq. of Ollantigh. No court is held for this manor.

Mr. Sawbridge owned the whole of this parish, except one tenement, and six acres of land belonging to the same.

WARDEN is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sittingbourne. The church, consisting of one aisle and a chancel, with a turret at the west end, is a small plastered building, dedicated to St. James, and was for many years in a dilapidated state, insomuch so, that service had not been performed therein for a long time. However, upon the induction of a rector, it was put in a state of repair, and merely made fit for divine service, although the whole building appears to be so much decayed by time, that it cannot stand many years.

The church of Warden was a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear annual certified value of £45, the yearly tenths being 9s. 6½d., which were formerly paid to the crown receiver.

In 1578 the communicants were twenty, and in 1640 there were only sixteen, the yearly value amounting to £36.

In 1821 there were three dwellings in the parish of Warden;

and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 13, females 8, making a total of 21 souls.

LEYSDOWN is the next parish southeastward from WARDEN, and was called in ancient Latin deeds, *Lesduna*, and in other documents, *Leysdon*, having, most probably, derived its name from the Saxon words, *leswe*, which signifies a pasture, and *dune*, an open high situation.

This parish stands chiefly on elevated ground, being bounded by the Isle of Harty on the south, and the cliffs on the sea-shore to the north. The lands are nearly all pasture, but between this place and Eastchurch they consist of large unenclosed downs: there is no village, nor any other object worthy of notice. *The manor of Newington* extends over a part of this parish.

In 1750 Mr. Jacob, of Faversham, discovered in this parish the *acetabulam* of an elephant, in the clay, which was partly washed away from the cliff; and at the same time a portion of another, viz. one of the spinal *vertebræ*, a thigh bone four feet long, and numerous other fragments, too rotten to be removed entire. On a further search he found a tusk of an elephant, and as it lay entire to appearance, took its dimensions, which were in length eight feet, and in circumference in the middle twelve inches; this, upon endeavouring to remove it, fell to pieces. He also found part of a *scapula*, its sinus almost entire, three inches in diameter, and some pieces of the grinders in a different part of the island. The *pyrites*, however, abounded so much in the clay, wherein these bones were embedded, that they prevented their being found in a tolerable perfect state; these fragments, however, were sufficient to show that this elephant was as large as that mentioned by *Fentzelius*, in the Philosophical Transactions. The remedy now applied to prevent the destruction of fossil bones, (caused by their being so much impregnated with *pyritical* matter,) is to coat them with a very thin solution of carpenter's glue, dissolved, which has been found to answer the purpose.

This parish is within the paramount manor of Milton, *subordinate* to which are the *two manors of Leysdown* within it, the

most eminent of which is so called, without any addition or distinction to the name.

THE MANOR OF LEYSDOWN seems to have been given by Henry II. to the church of the Holy Trinity, now Christ church, in Canterbury, as of the value of £25 annual rent; accordingly, the prior, in the 7th of Edward I., claimed, and was allowed, all the privileges of a manor here.

Mr. Somner, in his treatise on Gavelkind, says that there was anciently, in this manor, a customary rent paid, called *were-gavel*, having been sometimes more, and at others less, and that it was paid for the wears, or kiddels, which the inhabitants of this place were privileged to pitch on the sea coast, for the catching of fish, until it was forbidden by *Magna Charta*, to set them in the Thames or Medway, or any place in England excepting the sea coasts.

The OTHER MANOR in this parish, called also THE MANOR OF LEYSDOWN, was anciently part of the possessions of that branch of the family of Grey, seated at Rotherfield, in Oxfordshire, a descendant of which line, John de Grey, of Rotherfield, was owner of the property in the reign of Edward I., in the 25th year of which prince he had a summons to Parliament, among the barons of the realm. His son John died possessed of it, as appears by the inquisition taken after his death, in the 33d year of that reign, by the description of 40s. annual rent, with its appurtenances in Leysdown, held of the king *in capite*, by the service of paying ward to Dover castle, and by the service of the tenth part of one knight's fee, in lieu of all other service.

Bartholomew de Grey, his descendant, died possessed of this manor in the 2d of Henry IV. leaving Joan his daughter and heir, afterwards married to Sir John Deincourt, by whom she had one son, and two daughters, Alice and Margaret, the former of whom having married William lord Lovel, seems to have entitled her husband to the possession of this manor. His grandson, Francis lord Lovel, was, in the reign of Edward IV. created Viscount Lovel, and became a great favorite of Richard III. for whom he fought at the battle of Bosworth, and after his defeat fled beyond sea, but, returning in support of Lambert Simnell, the counterfeit duke of York, he was slain at the battle of Stoke, near Newark, in the 3d of Henry VII.

In the 1st year of the above reign an Act had passed for his conviction and attainder, among others, as also another for his attainder in particular; before which, however, this manor had been granted by the crown to William Cheney, esq. of Shurland, and his grandson, Henry lord Cheney, exchanged it with Queen Elizabeth for other lands. How it passed afterwards we have not found, but it was in later times possessed by Sir Thomas Stevens, since which it passed in like manner as the manor of Warden, before described, down to Samuel Elias Sawbridge, esq. of Ollantigh, who subsequently possessed the same.

Nuts, as it is generally called, but in ancient court rolls written *Notts,* is a small manor in this parish, so named from a family of that name its owners, who continued possessors for several generations. However, about the beginning of the reign of Edward IV. it was thence alienated to the Bartholomew's, a family possessed of much land about Linsted, Throwley, and other places in that neighbourhood. They gave their name to a part of this estate, and thenceforward was called *Bartholomew's farm,* which line continued the proprietors till the reign of Henry VII., when it was alienated to William Cheney, esq. of Shurland. His grandson, Henry lord Cheney, having, in the 3d of Elizabeth, levied a fine of all his lands, soon afterwards alienated it to Christopher Sampson, esq., who bore for his arms, *Argent, a castle triple towered, sable.* He afterwards resided at Nutts, and left three sons, of whom Anthony, the eldest, possessed this manor, which he sold with Bartholomew farm and Churchfield, and another part thereof also, to Stephen Osborne, esq. afterwards of Nutts, descended from the family of that name seated at Hartlip, whose arms he likewise bore. He was owner of this property in the 21st of Elizabeth, A.D. 1578, soon after which it seems to have been alienated in parcels to different persons. The *manor of Nutts,* in particular, continued in the family of the Osborne's, and on the death of Stephen Osborne, before mentioned, descended to his son John, whose grandson William, leaving an only daughter and heir, Anne, she carried the manor in marriage to Mr. Leonard Brandon. His son, of the same name, dying, passed it to his sister, Margaret Brandon, who devised it to the four daughters of Sir John Hind Cotton, bart., who, about the year 1752, joined in the conveyance of the same to Sir Edward Jacob, esq. of

Faversham, F.R.S., well known to the learned as an antiquary and naturalist, as well from his History of Faversham, as other works. He bore for his arms, *Or, on a canton, gules, an eagle displayed of the first,* and died in 1788, leaving his widow surviving, and several sons and daughters, in whom, by his will, this manor became vested.

But BARTHOLOMEW FARM was sold by Osborne to Christopher Finch, from which name it was conveyed in the reign of Charles I., to John Crooke, and thence, about the year 1725, to Thomas Stevens, esq., afterwards knighted. Since that period it has passed in like manner as the rest of his estates in this parish, and Warden, before described, to Samuel Elias Sawbridge, esq. of Ollantigh. William Cheney, esq., of Sheppey, owner of Nutts, and the other estates before mentioned, in the 10th of Henry VII., granted to John Woley and Robert de Rowe, wardens of Rochester bridge, a moiety of £4 annually as a rent charge, out of lands and tenements in the village of Leysdown, as well for keeping the bridge, as maintaining three chaplains for the celebration of divine service in the chapel house for ever, and praying for the souls of all the deceased benefactors. That yearly rent charge continued to be paid to the wardens for the time being, and was applied in like manner as the rest of the revenues of the bridge, towards the support and maintenance of the same.

In the 37th of the reign of Henry VIII., William Bury conveyed to that prince, by deed, a capital messuage, called Nutts, several marsh lands, and other premises in Mynstre, in Sheppey, but what connexion it had with Nutts in this parish, we do not find.

LEYSDOWN is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury, and *deanery* of Sittingbourne. The church, dedicated to St. Clement, was, some years back, in a most dilapidated state. The tower, which was of good workmanship, embattled, and very ancient, leaned towards the south more than seven feet out of a perpendicular line, similar to that of Florence. The body of the church, which also appeared to have been formerly much larger, had fallen down, so that divine service was for some time performed in a shed, erected for that purpose. In the room of that edifice there has been a small neat building raised, consisting of one aisle, with a wooden

turret at the west end. It does not appear to extend so far westward as the former building, for there is a space of two or three yards between the west end, and the remaining part of the old tower which joined the former church. The tower in question has been taken down to within about eight feet of the ground ; the remains, however, sufficiently show the antiquity and costliness of the fabric, as well as the tremendous posture in which it stood.

It was a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly value of £48, the annual tenths being £1 1s.

In 1577 the communicants were twenty-four, and in 1640 forty-six, the yearly value of the vicarage being £60.

In 1643 the rectory appropriate was held on lease by Thomas Bradbridge, at the annual rent of £1.

In 1821, there were twenty dwellings in the parish of Leysdown ; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow : males 75, females 57, making a total of 132 souls.

EMLEY, or ELMELEY, as it is frequently spelt in ancient records, is *a small island* adjoining that of Sheppey, and in general terms accounted part of the same, being separated only by a very narrow stream, called *the Dray*, on the north side, the south being bounded by the Swale, which flows between that and the main land of the county. It is three miles long, and two broad, and consists of one parish, of the same name as the island, excepting a small tract of land on the northern side, which is within the bounds of the parish of Eastchurch.

This island contains about 4700 acres of land, the whole of which, especially the southern hills, consist of very rich pasture. There are generally feeding on this place upwards of 6000 sheep, the wool of which has in some years sold for £1000. It has long been held on lease by the family of Blaxland, of Graveney court. There is no village, and there were formerly two houses only upon the whole island, which, as well as the church, stood on elevated ground, near the centre, so as to be plainly discernible from the adjacent parts of the county. There is a ferry, for horses and other cattle, from this island across the Swale, towards the county, and a ford on the other

side at low water, into the isle of Sheppey. From its situation, it is as unhealthy a spot as any within that island.

The paramount manor of Milton claims over this island, as being within that hundred; *subordinate* to which, *the manor of Emley* claims, as did formerly *that of Milsted* over part of the same.

A great portion of this island was the demesne of the family of the Peyforer's, one of whom, Fulk de Peyforer, died possessed of this estate in the 5th of Edward I. From the above family it passed into that of the Potyn's, one of whom, Nicholas Potyn, possessed it in the reign of Richard II., and left an only daughter, Juliana, who carried it in marriage to Thomas St. Leger, afterwards of Otterden, second son of Sir Ralph St. Leger, of Ulcomb. He left an only daughter and heir, Joan, who marrying Henry Aucher, esq. of Newenden, entitled him to the possession of this estate. She survived, and afterwards married Robert Capys, who possessed a life estate in Elmele and other places in the reign of Henry VI. He subsequently conveyed his interest away to Sir William Cromer, who had been previously possessed of a large estate in this district, which had anciently belonged to the Cobham's, and was sold by one of that line to Sir Walter Manny, whose only daughter, Anne, married John de Hastings, earl of Pembroke. He died possessed of the property in the 49th of Edward III., leaving a son, John, who succeeded him in title and estate, and was killed at a tournament in the 13th of Richard II. This estate, which consisted of 1000 acres of land, then became the property of his heirs, Reginal Grey and Richard Talbot, whose feoffee in trust, Sir Robert Knollys, by their direction, conveyed it, in the 7th of Henry IV., to Sir William Cromer, of Tunstall, whose son, William Cromer, esq., afterwards purchased the manor of Elmele, as above mentioned. His descendant, Sir James Cromer, died in 1613, leaving by his second wife three daughters his coheirs, of whom, Christian, the youngest, married John, eldest son of Sir Edward Hales, knight and bart. of Tenterden, and on the partition of their estates, she entitled him to the possession of the same. He was afterwards knighted, but died during the life of his father, leaving a son, Edward, who succeeded his grandfather likewise in title and estate, in whose descendants this manor continued down to Sir Edward Hales, bart. of St.

Stephen's, till 1789, when it was conveyed in purchase by Sir Edward and Mr. Hales, to George Gipps, esq. of Harbledown, M.P. for the city of Canterbury, who retained the entire possession of this, as well as the whole island.

EMLEY is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sittingbourne. The church, dedicated to St. James, has been for many years in a state of delapidation, for though the walls and roofing are entire, they are quite bare on the inside, being divested of pavement, ceiling, door, and windows.

It was valued in the king's books at £5, and the yearly tenths at 10s. In 1578 there was only one dwelling-house, when the communicants amounted to six. In 1640 there were ten communicants, and the rectory was valued at £70; and subsequently estimated at about £80.

In 1821 there were four dwellings in the parish of Emley; and, at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 12, females 11, making a total of 23 souls.

HARTY is another small island adjoining that of Sheppey, southeastward, opposite to Leysdown. It is connected with the Island of Emley towards the west, being separated both from that and the Island of Sheppey by a very small narrow stream of water. On the south side is the water called the Swale, which flows between that and the main land of the county. It is about two miles long, and one and a half broad, consisting of one parish of the same name as the island itself. It is within the bounds of the hundred of Faversham, and a borsholder is annually chosen for the borough, which extends over the whole island, at the court-leet, for that manor and hundred; but being in a manner part of the island of Sheppey, the description of it should be more properly inserted here, than deferred to the account of that hundred hereafter.

It is called in ancient records *Harteigh*, which name seems to be derived from the Saxon words *Heord-tu*, signifying the island filled with herds of cattle; a name well suited to the ancient and present state of this district.

The island lies opposite to the parish of Ore, on the main

land of the county, the waters of the Swale flowing between them, over which is a ferry for passengers and cattle, called Harty ferry. The soil is entirely pasturage, whereon are constantly feeding about 4000 sheep; and in the centre the grounds rise. The church stands nearly in the middle of the district; there is no village; and about two thirds of the island was the property of Mr. Sawbridge.

It appears by the pleas of the crown, in the 21st of Edward I., taken before the justices itinerant, that there was formerly a bridge leading hence into Sheppey, then called Tremseth bridge, which had been broken down by a violent inundation of the sea, and the channel thereby rendered so deep, that the foundation for a new one could not be laid; wherefore the inhabitants of Sheppey, who had before repaired it, maintained in its place two ferry boats, for the conveyance of passengers to and fro.

There is no bridge here at present, and the fleet which divided this island from that of Sheppey is become so very narrow, and has for several years past been so dammed up, that excepting at high tides and overflowings of the waters, Harty has ceased to display the appearance of an island. There are no highway duties, and scarcely any roads throughout the whole of this tract.

The manor of Harty, otherwise *Sayer court*, was, in the reign of Henry III., part of the possessions of the family of the Champion's, who wrote themselves, in Latin, *De Campania*, having been seated at Champion's court, in Newnham. Robert de Campania held this manor in the above reign, as half a knight's fee, of John de St. John. His descendant, John de Campania, died possessed of it in the reign of Edward II.; and Edward III., in his 1st year, directed his writ to Robert de Kendal, late constable of Dover castle, to restore to the lady of the Island of Hartye, sister of Thomas Roscelyn, her lands forfeited in Kent in the reign of his father, on account of the prosecutions of Hugh le Despencer, the elder and younger. They left three daughters and coheirs, of whom, Catherine married Robert Corbet, and Thomasine, Thomas Chevin, who divided his estates among them; but to whom this manor afterwards passed we have not found. The next name by which it was possessed appears to have been Whaley, whose heirs sold it to a Cheney; in which line it continued down to Sir Thomas Cheney,

knight of the Garter, who died possessed of it in the 1st of Queen Elizabeth.

Another estate in this island, called LE LONG HOUSE, was parcel of the possessions of the abbey of Faversham, of which it was held, as part of a knight's fee, by John de Criol, in the reign of Edward I., as it was afterwards by the family of the Champion's, or *De Campania*, one of whom, John de Campania, possessed it in the reign of Edward II., whose widow, Mary, paid aid for it in the 20th year of that reign, as parcel of the manor of Westwood.

This estate then devolved to the family of the Poynings', whose heir general, Alianore, daughter of Richard de Poynings, carried it in marriage to Sir Henry Percy, afterwards earl of Northumberland; in whose descendants it continued, till at length it was alienated to the Cheney's, Sir John Cheney, knight of the Garter, dying possessed of it in the 1st of Queen Elizabeth.

THE MOTE was another part of Harty manor, being parcel of the estate in this island, equally belonging to the family of the Champion's, and was carried in marriage by Thomasine, daughter and coheir of John de Campania, in the reign of Edward III., to Thomas Chevin, of Showland, in Newnham; in whose descendants it continued down to John Chevin, who in the 3d of Elizabeth, by conveyance and fine, sold it to Mr. Thomas Paramour, by the description of a manor and lands in the parish of St. Thomas, in the Isle of Harty, of the fee of William marquis of Winchester, capital lord of the same.

However, it being alleged by John Chevin, that he was under age at the period of the before-mentioned alienation, the fine was reversed, and he having again passed it away in the mean time to John Kyne and Simon Lowe, they, in the 13th year of that reign, brought a writ of right, for the recovery of it, against Thomas Paramour; but they were non-suited, and the defendant confirmed in the possession of this property by the court. In consequence of that decree, a *trial by battle* was demanded by Paramour, and awarded by the court; of which a pompous account is given in our law books, much too long for insertion here. It will be sufficient to inform the reader, that the champions of each party, properly accoutered, met at the appointed time in Tothill fields, Westminster, before the justices of the court of Common Pleas, when upwards of 4000 persons

were present; but the non-appearance of Kyne and Lowe caused it to be awarded to the defendant, for so the queen had ordered. This was one of the last instances in our books of battle joined in a writ of right. How long this estate continued in the name of Paramour, we do not find, but it seems to have remained in the possession of Henry lord Cheney in the 12th of Queen Elizabeth, as will be further mentioned.

The abbot and convent of Faversham, besides the fee held of them, as before mentioned, were in possession of an estate called ABBAT'S COURT, and in the reign of Henry VII., their tenant of the same was Thomas Colepeper, esq.; but it did not continue in the possession of that monastery till the final dissolution, as Henry VIII., in his 29th year, granted his licence to John, then abbot of Faversham, to alienate this manor of Abbat's court to Sir Thomas Cheney, knight of the Garter, who died possessed of the estate in the 1st of Queen Elizabath, holding it at the yearly sum of 40s. 8d., in the name of tenths, as will be further mentioned.

The dean and canons of the collegiate chapel of St. Stephen, in Westminster, were possessed of an estate in this island, called PERY MARSH, which they continued to hold till the 1st of Edward VI., when this chapel being dissolved was surrendered into the hands of the king, who granted it, among other premises, to Sir Thomas Cheney, knight of the Garter, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service; and he died possessed of it in the 1st of Queen Elizabeth.

The Benedictine nunnery of Davington was possessed of lands in this parish, as well as the church or parsonage of Harty. The former, in the 17th of Edward III., consisted of 140 acres of pasturage, which were then valued over and above the chief rent paid for it, £15 yearly.

Sir Thomas Cheney dying possessed of all the beforementioned manors and estates in the 1st of Queen Elizabeth, was succeeded therein by his son and heir, Henry Cheney, of Tuddington, afterwards lord Cheney, who had possession granted of the whole in the 3d year of that reign; and the same year levied a fine of all his lands.

He subsequently alienated, by conveyance and fine levied, the manor of Harty and the rectory of St. Thomas the Apostle, in the Isle of Hartye, called *Stanger*, otherwise *Stangarde*, or

the parsonage of Hartie, with all appurtenances, to the use of Richard Thornhill, esq.

His grandson alienated that part of the above-mentioned premises, called *Abbat's court*, since known by the name of *Hall farm*, with *Pery marsh*, and other lands, to Robert Cole, esq., who, in 1662, settled this estate on his sole daughter and heir, Jane, on her marriage with Sir Thomas Darcy, of St. Clere hall in Essex. He afterwards sold it to Mr. Thomas French, who by will devised it to be sold, when it was purchased, in 1701, by Thomas Clark, merchant, of London, whose heirs sold it, in 1765, to Mr. Thomas Buck, of Faversham; on whose death, in 1779, it became the property of his son. This estate is exempt from the payment of all tithes.

But the remaining part of the several estates of Henry lord Cheney continued in the descendants of Richard Thornhill, esq., down to Richard Thornhill, esq. of Ollantigh, who, in the 4th of Queen Anne, having obtained an Act for the purpose, sold the *manor of Harty*, the rectory and advowson of the vicarage, with the estate, called *Le Long House*, *the Mote*, and a farm called *Elliot's*, to Mr. Jacob Sawbridge, of London, whose great grandson ultimately possessed the same.

HARTY is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sittingbourne. The church, which is a small building, consisting of a body chancel and two side chantries, is dedicated to St. Thomas the Apostle, and was formerly part of the possessions of the Benedictine nunnery of Davington.

In the 35th of Henry VIII. the yearly stipend to the curate was £6 13 4. This church was entered in the king's books as a rectory, and valued at £20 6 0½, the tenths being £2 0 7½, which are paid to the crown receiver, and not to the archbishop. The cure was for many years esteemed as a vicarage, with a stipend to the vicar of £20 per annum, paid to him in lieu of tithes; and divine service was performed here, except in very severe weather, once in a fortnight. In 1578 there were forty-seven communicants; and in 1640 the number was fifty.

In 1821 there were seven dwellings in the parish of Harty; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 24, females 21, making a total of 45 souls.

THE ISLAND OF GRAINE.

THIS island, though on the opposite side of the river Medway, and some miles distant from the rest of the hundred of Hoo, yet being within the manor of Gillingham, has always been esteemed a portion of the same.

It is written in the *Textus Roffensis*, and other ancient MSS., *Grean*, *Gryen*, and *Gren*, and lies next to the hundred of Hoo, from which it is separated by a small stream. The south and east sides adjoin the river Medway, the latter being opposite to Sheerness, and the north side joins the river Thames, forming the land where those two rivers meet. It is in size about three miles and a half long, and two and a half wide, containing only *one parish*, called St. James's.

The water that separates this island from the hundred of Hoo is denominated the Stray; the northern mouth of which, next the Thames, is called the North Yantlet; that next the Medway, is Colemouth; though the whole formerly went by the name of *Yantlet*, or *Yenlade*, and was, in very ancient times, no doubt, as well as that of the same name between the Isle of Thanet and the main land, of much larger extent than it has been for a long time past. In 1824, an indictment was issued against James Montague, W. L. Newman, John Nelson, and four others, in consequence of their having cut through an embankment, at *Graine bridge*, for the purpose of forming a junction of the waters of the rivers Thames and Medway, in and through YANTLET CREEK, within the jurisdiction of the lord mayor of the city of London, as conservator of those waters; the said embankment being claimed by the landholders of the Isle of Graine, alleged in the indictment to have been an ancient and immemorial road for land carriage. This trial took place at Guildford Assizes, in the county of Surrey, before Mr. Baron Graham, and a special jury; when a verdict was given against the defendants. In 1825, proceedings were commenced to set aside the above verdict, and obtain a new trial;

when judgment was delivered, that the verdict ought not to be disturbed.*

In the reign of Henry VIII., it appears that this island was only encompassed at flood. The water of Yantlet seems once to have been the usual passage for all vessels from and to London, which thereby avoided the more exposed navigation round the outside of this island, as they likewise did the circuit of the Isle of Sheppey, by going through the Swale, between that and the main land; both of which waters are mentioned in several old writings, as part of the river Thames. So late as the 10th of Edward III. this appears to have been the most accustomed passage, for, in the 11th year of that reign, strict ward and watch being set, according to old custom, along the sea coast of this county, one of them appears to have been established at La Yendale, in Hoo, which consisted of twelve men at arms, and six hobelers, the latter having been a kind of light horsemen, who rode from place to place in the night, to gain intelligence of the landing of boats and men, &c. and were probably so called from the hobbies or small horses upon which they rode.

The Island of Graine is an oblong square, lying flat and low, the largest part consisting of pasture and marshes, the vast tracts of the latter, and the badness of the water, rendering it unwholesome, as well as unpleasant. The entrance to this island from the hundred of Hoo is on the south side, over a causeway, across Stoke marshes. The church of St. James's, the only one it contains, is situated at the northern extremity of the island, about a quarter of a mile from the shore. There is no village, and the few houses stand dispersed about a mile from the church.

There are two sets of salt works, or salt pans, as they are called, one situated close to the water, at the southern boundary of the island; the other on Mr. Davenport's estate of Wall end, on the eastern part of the island, close to the Medway. In short, we cannot give a better description of it than in Mr. Johnson's words, in his book respecting Kentish plants, entitled *Iter Plantarum Investigationis ergo susceptum*, containing an

* Two publications exist respecting this litigated point, one published in 1824, being a report of the trial; the other in 1825, containing the report of the city solicitor, W. L. Newman, esq., to whom we feel much indebted for copies of the same.

account of his journey, July 13, 1629, in search of simples in this island. He says, " Having left our small boat, we walked five or six miles, but discovered nothing which could afford us any pleasure. It was in the middle of a very hot day, and, like Tantalus, we were tormented by an intolerable thirst in the midst of water, which was all salt; nor were we less oppressed with hunger in this barbarous country, where there was not a village near, nor the smoke of a chimney in sight, or even the barking of a dog within hearing, those usual signs of inhabitants, to raise our languid minds to any kind of hope."

The commission of sewers, which extends from Gravesend to Sheerness, and up the river Medway, to Penshurst, takes charge of the sea walls round this island, the same being repaired at no small expense, which are divided into two levels, called the South-west and North-west levels.

THE MANOR OF GRAINE was anciently part of the possessions of the archbishopric of Canterbury, where it remained till the reign of Henry VIII.; in the 37th year of which prince, Archbishop Cranmer conveyed all his estates in this parish, together with his right to wreck of the sea, to the king.

Edward VI., in his 5th year, granted this manor of Graine to his beloved and faithful counsellor, Sir George Brooke, lord Cobham, to hold *in capite* by knight's service. His grandson, Henry lord Cobham, being convicted of treason in the 1st of James I., it became confiscated to the crown, where it remained till the death of Charles I., when it appears to have been esteemed as part of the manor of Gillingham, the quit-rents of which in this island then amounted to £24 10 10½, from the freeholders, in free socage tenure; after the Restoration, it was granted as an appendage to that manor, and in such state it continued, being in the possession of Multon Lambard, esq. of Sevenoak.

There is another manor here, called the MANOR OF GRAINE, or ROSE COURT, which, in the reign of Edward III., was the estate of the family of the Cobham's, of Cobham, in this county. Sir John de Cobham died possessed of it under the above monarch, and his son, together with Sir Robert Knolys, built the new bridge at Rochester, and amortized his two manors at Graine and Tilbury, worth forty marks yearly, above all reprises, to the support of it for ever; when it continued part

of the possessions of the wardens and commonalty of that bridge, for the purposes above mentioned.

There is a good estate in that part of the island next the Medway, consisting of several farms, lands, and salt works, the principal of which is called, from its situation, WALL END FARM.

This estate has, from the earliest period, had the same owners as the manor of Malmains, in Stoke, in this neighbourhood. In the reign of Edward III., it was in the possession of the family of the Malmains's; whence it passed into the name of Filiot, and thence to the Carew's, of Beddington, in Surrey. From the latter line it was alienated, in the reign of Henry V., to one Iden, who passed it to John Parke, whose sole daughter and heir, Elizabeth, carried it in marriage to John Roper, esq. of Linsted, who, in the reign of James I., was created baron of Teynham, in this county. His son, Christopher Roper, lord Teynham, succeeded him in this estate, which he increased, by obtaining a grant of lands in the Island of Graine, formerly belonging to the nunnery of Minster, in Sheppey, which had been given to that institution by Archbishop Corboil. The whole then continued in his descendants down to Henry lord Teynham, who, on his marriage with the Lady Anne, daughter and coheir of Thomas Lennard, earl of Sussex, and widow of Richard Barret Lennard, esq. of Belhouse, in Essex, afterwards baroness Dacre, settled this estate, after her life interest therein, on the issue of that marriage. Lady Dacres afterwards married the Hon. Robert Moore, and died possessed of this property in 1755; on which, the fee became vested in Trevor Charles Roper and Henry Roper, the infant sons and coheirs, in gavelkind, of the Hon. Charles Roper, her eldest son, by lord Teynham. However, by a decree in the court of Chancery, for the sale of this estate, to pay off incumbrances, it was, in 1765, conveyed to the Rev. H. Foote, of Charlton, in Bishopsbourne, whose eldest son, John Foote, esq., afterwards succeeding to it, passed it away by sale to Mr. Thomas Lovett. He devised it to his son, of the same name; on whose death it descended to his sister, the wife of Mr. Davenport, of London, who, in her right, became entitled to the same.

The priory of Rochester was in early times possessed of lands in this island, as, in 1076, Archbishop Lanfranc, in the solemn

assembly held at Penenden heath, recovered from Ralph de Curva Spina, sixty shillings rent of pasture in Grean, the same having been taken from that church, which he immediately restored. There were several gifts afterwards made to the priory of Marshes in this island, as may be seen throughout the *Textus* and *Registrum Roffense*, while Henry I. confirmed to it a fishing in Grean, called the Niwewere, for which the institution paid the archbishop five shillings yearly. That rental Archbishop Ralf released to the priory for ever, and likewise, by his charter, prohibited all persons from fishing in the Thames, before the fishery of the monks of Niwewere, under pain of forfeiture to him if they should be found fishing beyond.

Archbishop Baldwin, in the 1st of Richard I., intending to erect a chapel, and other buildings, within the manor of Lambeth, which then belonged to the monks of Rochester, granted to them, in lieu of the land there, connected with the manor on which the chapel was to be built, and the area lying round it, one bercary, or sheepcot, in the isle of gren, with all its appurtenances, in marsh lands, wreck, and all other matters belonging thereto, to hold to them as the demesnes of the said manor, free from all service and demand. He also made a further addition by granting to them the services yearly due to him and his successors, for those bercaries, or sheepcots, that the monks held of him in Gren, which their tenants at all times in future should pay, and be answerable for to them. These premises in Gren were particularly excepted out of the exchange made by Archbishop Hubert and the monks of Rochester, of the manors of Lambeth and Darent, in the 7th of Richard I. In the 21st of Edward I. upon a *quo warranto*, the prior of Rochester claimed to have wreck of the sea in the above marshes, as Archbishop Baldwin had previously done without interruption, when the same was allowed him by the jury.

All these marshes, lands, and rents, which had been given to the priory of Rochester, remained part of its possessions at the dissolution under Henry VIII., when they were surrendered to the king, who settled them on his new erected dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom the inheritance has ever since continued.

The island of Graine is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and, being one of the

archbishops *peculiars,* as such is within the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church, dedicated to St. James, consists of three aisles and a chancel, wherein are several memorials and inscriptions; one in brass for William Hykks, and Joan his wife; another for Jonathan Hykks, and Agnes, his wife, while others commemorate the family of the Godfrey's; and, in the chancel, is a brass memento for John Cardyf, who furnished the pavement, and died in 1452.

This church anciently belonged to the nunnery at Minster, in Sheppey, to which it was appropriated previous to the reign of Edward I. It continued part of the possessions of that institution till the reign of Henry VIII., who granted the rectory of St. James's, in the isle of Graine, with the advowson, to John Fynch, to hold *in capite,* by knight's service. He died possessed of this property, together with 500 acres of arable, pasture, and salt marshes, in this island, when his son, Clement Fynch, at length possessed the whole of this estate. The latter then alienated it to William Brooke, lord Cobham, who, being attainted for high treason in the reign of James I., forfeited this property to the crown, when it was granted to Sir Edward Hales, bart., who died possessed of the same in 1654.

How this rectory passed from his descendants we do not find, but Mr. John Page of Rochester held it for many years, and at his death devised it to his kinsman the Rev. Edmund Faunce, of Sutton at Hone, whose son, of the same name, possessed it. This rectory is held of the crown by the yearly feefarm rent of £1 2 10½.

The advowson of the vicarage of this church passed with the rectory, through the same chain of ownership, to Sir Edward Hales, bart., shortly after whose death they seem to have had separate owners, the late proprietor of the advowson having been Mr. Walter Nynn, on whose decease, without issue, Mrs. Rachael Ray, widow, his sister and heir, became entitled to the property.

It was valued in the king's books at £9 11 8 per annum, the yearly tenths being 19s. 2d.

In a taxation, made in the reign of Edward III., it appears that the church of Graine was then endowed with ten acres of arable, and two of pasture land, the annual value having been £4 3 4, and of rents of assize to the amount of 48s. per annum.

In the survey taken after the death of Charles I. in 1650, of the several parsonages and vicarages in this diocese, it was returned that there was in this parish a vicarage presentative, worth £50 per annum, Sir Edward Hales then being patron; the incumbent, Mr. Edward Sparke; the parsonage, an impropriation, worth £50 per annum, and Sir Edward Hales owner of the same.

Dr. Plume, archdeacon of Rochester, who died in 1704, bequeathed £5 per annum towards teaching the poor children of this parish to read.

In 1821 there were forty-five dwellings in the parish of Graine; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 136, females 118, making a total of 254 souls. It is remarked, in the population Act of the above year, that the increase of inhabitants in this parish is attributable to the families of the Preventive Service established on the island of Graine.

THE LATHE OF AYLESFORD.

THE HUNDRED OF HOO.

EASTWARD from the hundred of SHAMEL lies that of Hoo, bounded on the opposite side by the water called the *North Yenlade*, which separates this hundred from the isle of Grean. Hollinshed says, that, in his time, Hoo was nearly an island, and that there was a common proverb concerning this hundred, viz:

> "He that rides into the hundred of Hoo,
> Besides pilfering seamen will find dirt enow."

It was formerly noted for the wealth of the yeomen who inhabited the district, but there are now scarcely any except bailiffs and lookers, who reside there, the farmers and landholders chiefly dwelling at Stroud and Rochester. There is scarcely a gentleman's house, or even a clergyman resident here, in consequence of the depth of the soil, the dirtiness of the roads, and the unwholesome air issuing from the neighbouring marshes.

It takes its name from the elevated situation, *Hou*, in Saxon, signifying a hill. The hundred of Hoo contains the parishes of HOO, ST. WARBURGH, HIGH HALSTOW, ST. MARY'S HOO, ALLHALLOWS, and STONE, *in part*.

It also contains part of the parishes of COBHAM and WEST PECKHAM, the churches of which stand in another hundred.

HOO ST. WARBURGH, so called from the dedication of its church, and, in order to distinguish it from the adjoining parish of St. Mary Hoo, is the principal one in this hundred to which it gives name. It is about two miles across each way, the soil in general a stiff clay, and the land heavy for tillage. On the hill it rather inclines to be gravelly, the one half being marsh land, extending to the river Medway, constituting its

southern boundary. Adjoining the marshes is Hoo street, with the church at the south end, the high spire of which forms a conspicuous object to all the surrounding country. There are two other hamlets, at either extremity of the parish, Broad street, close to Hoo common, being the western boundary, and opposite East End. At Hoo street the ground rises from the marshes to the high hill. The enclosures are small, and the hedge-rows thick, with a continuance of high spiry elms, and some dwarf oaks interspersed in different places. The roads are deep and miry, and full of water, while the air, from its contiguity to the large tract of marshes, is extremely unhealthy.

In consequence of a writ from Richard II. in his 1st year, to the sheriffs of Kent and Essex, *one beacon* was erected at Hoo, and another opposite, at Fobbyng, in Essex, among other places along the banks of the river, in order that, by the firing of the same, notice might be given of any sudden attempt of an enemy. Peter Gunning, bishop of Ely, son of Peter Gunning, vicar of this parish, a native of the district, was a person of the most diffusive charity, and a benefactor to all places with which he had any connexion, and at his death gave whatsoever he possessed to charitable uses, more particularly the endowment of poor vicarages. He died in 1684, and by his will bequeathed a service of communion plate to the church of Hoo.

Before the conquest, the MANOR OF HOO ST. WARBURGH, with the court of the hundred, was in the possession of Godwin, earl of Kent, from whom it descended to King Harold, and after the Conquest was given by the Conqueror to Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in the record of Domesday.

On the disgrace of that prelate, about four years after, his estates were confiscated to the crown, among which was this of Hoo.

King Richard I. exchanged the manor and hundred with Hugh Bardolf, for the honour of Bampton, in Devonshire, which had been forfeited to the crown by Fulk Paganel, or Painel, as he was usually called, to whom it had been given by Henry II. He was a younger son of William Bardolf, of Stoke Bardolf, and bore for his arms, *Azure three cinque-foils, pierced, or.* He died without issue, on which this estate of Hoo became vested in the crown, when it was granted, in the 17th of King John,

to Hubert de Burgh, chief justiciary of England, and afterwards earl of Kent, upon whose disgrace it appears to have become vested in Henry Grey, and Hugh Poinz, in right of their wives, two of the five nieces and coheirs of Robert Bardolf above mentioned, in separate moieties.

Henry Grey left a son, Sir Richard Grey, whose principal seat was at Codnor, in Derbyshire: his descendants were the Barons Grey, of Codnor. One of those, John lord Grey, of Codnor, paid respective aid for this estate in the 20th of Edward III. as half a fee, which Henry de Grey had before held in the parish of Wereburghe, in Hoo, of the king. He lived to a good old age, and dying about the 15th of Richard II., was succeeded by Richard his grandson, who, in the reign of Henry IV., purchased the other moiety of this manor, and so became entitled to the whole fee of the same.

But to return to the other moiety, which devolved to the possession of Hugh Poinz. His great grandson, Nicholas Poinz, died possessed of it in the 1st of Edward I., holding it *in capite*, by the service of half a knight's fee. He left Hugh Poinz his son and heir, who had summons among the barons of this realm, in the 23d of Edward II., whose descendant, Nicholas lord Poinz, having married Alianore, daughter of Sir John Erleigh, died about the middle of the reign of Edward III. leaving two daughters his coheirs; Amicia, wife of John Barry, and Margaret, wife of John Newborough. They joined in the sale of this moiety to one Judd, from which name it passed by sale, in the reign of Henry IV., to Richard lord Grey, of Codnor, as before mentioned, who then became possessed of the entire fee of the manor of Hoo.

Richard lord Grey was much in favor with Henry IV., who conferred many important offices on him, he having been employed both in war and civil negotiations. He died in the 5th of Henry V., when it descended down to Henry lord Grey, who died possessed of it in the 11th of Henry VII., without legitimate issue, and was buried at Aylesford, under which parish a further account of this family is inserted. The manor and castle of Codnor then went to Elizabeth, his aunt and heir, wife of Sir John Zouch, a younger son of William lord Zouch, of Harringworth, who bore for his arms, *Gules, ten bezantes*, which, *with a canton*, remain on the roof of the cloisters of Canterbury cathe-

dral. This manor of Hoo, notwithstanding, continued in the possession of the Lady Catherine Grey (afterwards married to Sir William de la Pole,) for the term of her life, and she died possessed of it, as appears by the escheat rolls, A.D. 1521, after which it devolved to Sir John Zouch, above mentioned, who also died possessed of the same in 1529. He was succeeded by Thomas Cornewall, who was possessed of the estate at his death in the 30th of that reign, as appears by the inquisition then taken. Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Allington castle, was the next proprietor of this manor, who, in the reign of Henry VIII., conveyed the hundred and lordship of Hoo, and the manor of Little Hoo, late belonging to Boxley abbey, among other premises, to the king.

They continued vested in the crown, till Edward VI., in his 5th year, granted to Sir George Brooke, lord Cobham, the hundred of Hoo, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service, but his unfortunate grandson, Henry lord Cobham, having been convicted of high treason in the 1st of James I., though he had pardon for his life, nevertheless forfeited all his estates to the crown, and among them this of Hoo, all which were confirmed to the crown by an Act passed in the 3d year of that reign. Soon after, these manors were granted to Sir Robert Cecil, earl of Salisbury, (son of William lord Burleigh,) who was subsequently lord treasurer of England, &c., and had married Elizabeth, sister of Henry lord Cobham above mentioned. He died possessed of the property in 1612, and was succeeded by his son and heir, William, earl of Salisbury, who, in the 4th of Charles I., alienated the estate to Sir Edward Hales, bart., who possessed it at his death in 1654. His grandson, Sir Edward Hales, bart., became his heir, and as such entitled to these manors; but he possessed only the court-baron of the same; for the view of frankpledge belonging to the hundred, appears, by the court rolls, to have continued, from the death of Lord Cobham, vested in the crown, and in the possession of the keepers of the liberties of England, as they were styled, from the death of Charles I. in 1648, to the Restoration. Three years after, he seems to have had, by the style of them, full possession of both, and having risked his fortune in the service of Charles I., and contracted debts to a large amount, was obliged to abandon his native country, to which he never returned; when, this estate, being

vested by him in Sir John Tufton, bart., and Edward Hales, esq. of Boughton Malherbe, as trustees, was conveyed by them, under the name of the manor and hundred of Hoo, to Edward Villiers, esq., fourth son of Sir Edward, second son of George Villiers, of Brokesby, in Leicestershire. Edward, his eldest son and heir, then succeeded him in the manor and hundred of Hoo, and, being much in favor with King William, was, in the 3d year of that monarch, created Viscount Villiers, of Dartford, and baron of Hoo, and, in 1697, constituted earl of Jersey. He died in 1711, leaving two sons, of whom William, the eldest, succeeded his father in titles and estate; whose descendant, George Bussy Villiers, earl of Jersey, and Baron Hoo, subsequently possessed this manor and hundred.

Belluncle is a manor in this parish, formerly a seat of some eminence, and most probably part of those possessions in the hundred of Hoo that belonged to the family of Bardolf, and passed, after the death of Robert Bardolf, in marriage with one of his five nieces and coheirs, to Jordan Foliot. He, in the 9th of Henry III., performed homage for this estate, whose son and heir, Richard de Foliot, passed away this manor by fine, in the 20th year of that reign, to Reginald de Cobham, second son of Henry de Cobham, of Cobham, who died possessed of it in the 42d year of the same prince. Upon his death it seems to have descended to his nephew, Sir John de Cobham, of Cobham, who died in the 28th of Edward I., leaving by Joane, his first wife, daughter of Sir Robert de Septrans, a son Henry, who had the addition of *junior* to his name, to distinguish him from Henry, his uncle, of Roundal, in Shorne, then living. He died soon after the 9th of Edward III., leaving by his wife, Maud de Columbers, three sons; John, who succeeded him at Cobham, ancestor of the Cobham's of that place, and of Sterborough castle; Thomas, who was of Belluncle; and Reginald, rector of Cowling.

Thomas, the second son, had this manor of Belluncle, by devise, from his father, and was afterwards knighted; he changed his arms to *Gules, on a chevron, three crescents, sable,* which coat was borne by all his posterity of this place. He resided here, and, having married Agnes, daughter of Septram, of Septram, in this county, was succeeded by his son and heir,

Thomas de Cobham, who was likewise of Belluncle, and lies buried in Cobham church, with Maud his wife. His descendants afterwards continued to reside at Belluncle, till at length John Cobham, esq. succeeded to this manor, having been alderman, and some time mayor of the city of Rochester, where he resided, and in 1624 was a benefactor to the church of St. Nicholas there, by setting up the north window of the chancel. He married Elizabeth, daughter of James Ballandine, of Derbyshire, by whom he had two sons, John and William, and a daughter Elizabeth. He died in the reign of Charles I., leaving his wife Elizabeth surviving; some time after which this manor became divided into moieties, one of which was vested in Colonel Richard Cobham, of Rochester; and the other in Clement Chadbourne, and Elizabeth his wife, one of the daughters of John Cobham, alderman, late of Rochester.

Clement Chadbourne, and Elizabeth his wife, in 1708, conveyed their undivided moiety of this manor to Colonel Richard Cobham above mentioned, who died without male issue, leaving two daughters his coheirs, the eldest of whom, Mary, carried one moiety of this manor in marriage to Captain James Hayes, of Rochester, who bore for his arms, *Gules, a chevron, or, between three boars' heads, couped.* Having purchased the other moiety, he became possessed of the whole, and died in 1755 without male issue, leaving two daughters and coheirs, the eldest of whom, Jane, carried this estate in marriage to the Rev. Mr. James Parsons, of Botherep, in Gloucestershire, who, in 1788, sold it to Richard Webb, esq., who is the present owner of this estate. No court is held for this manor.

Abbot's Court, generally called Abbey's Court, was formerly the mansion of an estate here, denominated *the manor of Little Hoo, or Hoo Parva,* which belonged to the abbey of Boxley, in consequence of which it has always been esteemed as lying within the borough of Boxley. Richard I. confirmed to that abbey a market in Hoo, of the gift of Maud de Canvill; and Edward III., in his 33d year, granted *free warren* to the abbot and convent for their demesne lands within their manor of Hoo. They continued in possession of this estate till the dissolution of their abbey, in the 29th of Henry VIII., when, being surrendered to the king, he granted this manor to Sir

Thomas Wyatt, at the annual rent of 48s. 2d., after which it had the same possessors as the manor of GREAT HOO, and ultimately became the property of the earl of Jersey.

John Lord Cobham, in the 36th of Edward III., settled 250 acres of marsh land, called Rowe and Slade marshes, lying within the lordship of St. Werburgs, in Hoo, on his new founded chantry, or college, in Cobham church.

Queen Elizabeth, in her 10th year, granted to Philip Conwaye, two marshes, called Estwike and Sprete, in this parish.

HOO is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The church, dedicated to St. Warburgh, consists of three aisles and a chancel.

In this structure, among others, are the following inscriptions, on brasses: *in the chancel*, two memorials for the family of the Plumley's, A.D. 1615 and 1642; two others, for John Brown and Richard Bayly, vicars, the latter A.D. 1412. *In the nave*, is a brass commemorative of Stephen and Richard Charles, obt. 1446; and another for John Beddyll, obt. 1500. *In the south aisle*, is an inscription for Thomas Cobham, esq., obt. 1465, and Matilda his wife; and in *the north aisle*, another for William Alton and Gelyane his wife, by whom he had fifteen children.

Robert Bardolf, lord of the manor of Hoo, in the reign of King John, granted to this church all the land called Elwruetche, which adjoined his field, named the Lese, towards the south; and also a piece of land, containing half an acre, in pure and perpetual alms, to find one lamp, to burn every night before the altar of St. Werburge, where the sacrament was kept.

Laurence bishop of Rochester, in 1252, appropriated the church of St. Werburge, of Hoo, with the chapel of All Saints, and every thing belonging thereto, to the prior and convent of Rochester, for the use of their almonry, they being the real patrons of the same, in consequence of the grant made by the lady abbess and convent, and by the prior of St. Sulpice, provided the church was served by a proper vicar, to be presented to him and his successors, who should in nowise neglect the cure of souls therein.

The churches of Halstow and St. Mary's, as well as that of All Saints, now called Allhallows, in this hundred, were accounted but as chapels to the church of St. Warburgh.

This vicarage was a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly certified value of £36 3, the yearly tenths of which were £1 17 7.

In 1821, there were 144 dwellings in the parish of Hoo; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 521, females 439, making a total of 960 souls.

Northward from Hoo lies HALSTOW, usually called HIGH HALSTOW, as well from its situation as to distinguish it from another parish of the same name, near Upchurch, in this county. This place is written in the *Textus Roffensis*, HAGLESTOW, and in other records, AGLESTOW.

The church, with Halstow street adjoining, is situated in the southern part of the parish; in addition to which, there are several smaller hamlets, as Clinches street, Fenn street, &c. the northern part, being one half of the parish, is marsh land, bounded by the river Thames; the hills cover the greater part; the soil and the country is otherwise of the same description as that of Hoo, last described, in every particular.

THE ROYALTY of the manor or lordship of Hoo claims over the parish, and, as such, this place was anciently part of the possessions of the family of Bardolf; from which it passed in like manner to the Poinz's and Grey's; and from them, in process of time, to Edward Villiers, esq., whose descendant, the earl of Jersey, afterwards possessed this property.

Reginald de Cobham held an estate in this parish, and in the 14th of Edward III., procured a charter of *free warren* in all his demesne lands in this parish of Halgesco.

John de Cobham, lord Cobham, gave an estate in this parish to the chantry of Cobham, founded by him.

The prioress and convent of Dartford, and the college of All Saints, in Maidstone, likewise possessed lands in this parish; part of the latter were the marshes of Eastwick and Spert, which, by grant from the crown, afterwards devolved to the family of the Somers's, which held them in the reign of Charles II. This line, as appears by their pedigree in the Heraldic Visitation of Kent, A.D. 1619, separated into two branches, one of St. Margaret's, Rochester, and the other of this

parish of Halstow. They bore for their arms, *Vert, a fess dancette, ermine.*

Halstow is within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester; the church being dedicated to St. Margaret.

In the chancel are the following brass plates: two coats *quarterly*, first, *parted per fess, indented;* second, *a chevron between three ewers, or, flower-pots;* and an inscription for William Palke, minister of High Halstow, obt. 1618, and Anne his wife; two brasses for William Groby, rector, obt. 1398, and William his father, obt. 1396. In the church, a tomb for William Somer, gent. of this parish, erected by William, his son, in 1607, and repaired by Richard Somer, gent. of Clifford's Inn, in 1672.

The rectory was valued in the king's books at £14 5 7½, the yearly tenths being £1 8 6½. In 1650, this rectory was estimated at £100 per annum, Sir Edward Hales being patron, and Mr. Benjamin Croup incumbent. In 1784, the value of this rectory was £295 per annum, the clear net profit being £230.

In 1821 there were forty-nine dwellings in the parish of Halstow; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 199, females 151, making a total of 350 souls.

Northeastward from Halstow lies St. Mary's, Hoo, distinguished from others of the same name in this county by the addition of At Hoo, near Rochester, both of which are frequently used in deeds relating to the same.

There are two parishes mentioned in the *Textus Roffensis* by the names of *Ordmœres circe de Hou*, and *Deremannes circe de Hou*, which certainly mean this parish and that of Allhallows, adjoining. We should imagine that the former was the name belonging to this parish of St. Mary's.

The church of St. Mary's, with the village adjoining, is situated about half a mile from the marshes, extending as much farther towards the river Thames, which is its northern boundary. It lies much lower and more level than the adjoining parish of Halstow; the soil in general being more fertile and not so gravelly, though about Combe, which is situated midway between St. Mary's church and the marshes, the land is poor

and much covered with furze and heath. It is, in other particulars, of much the same description as the other parishes in this hundred.

The manor of St. Mary's, Hoo, held of the paramount manor of Hoo, was, together with the mansion called St. Mary's hall, anciently part of the possessions of the family of Bardolf, and upon the division of the estates of Robert Bardolf among his five nieces and coheirs, this manor fell to the share of Hugh Poinz, in right of Maud, his wife, who was one of them. His descendant, Sir Nicholas de Poinz, sold it to William de Halden, who died possessed of it in the 50th of Edward III.; in whose family it remained till the reign of Edward IV., when William de Halton, as the name was then spelt, in the 8th year of that reign, alienated this manor to William Lemyng, citizen of London. He was succeeded in this estate by Sir John Brooke, lord Cobham, who, in the reign of Henry VII., conveyed it by sale to Sir Robert Read, afterwards made justice of the Common Pleas, who died about the 10th of Henry VIII., and on the partition of his lands among his four daughters and coheirs, this manor was allotted, with other premises, to the heirs of his daughter, Mary, then deceased, by her husband, Sir William Banentyne; and, on a further partition of her share among them, Margaret, one of her daughters, became entitled to this manor. She carried the property in marriage to Sir John Harcourt, of Elnall, in Staffordshire; and they, in the 30th of Henry VIII., exchanged the manor of St. Mary with John Wiseman, gent. for the priory of Ronton, in Staffordshire, who died possessed of it in 1558. He left three sons, of whom, Ralph, the second son, succeeded to the manor of St. Mary Hoo, and was knighted in 1603; he was of Rivenhall, in Essex, where he died in 1608. The family of the Wiseman's bore for their arms, *Sable, a chevron between three cronels of tilting spears, argent.* This branch of Rivenhall bore the *Chevron ermine.* His descendant, Sir William Wiseman, of Riven hall, was created a baronet in 1660, who alienated this manor, at the latter end of the reign of Charles II., to Captain John Daniel, whose arms were, *Argent, a pale fusilly, sable.* His daughter and heir carried it in marriage to Mr. Thomas Faunce, gent. of St. Margaret's, Rochester, whose son, Thomas Faunce, esq. was of Sutton at Hone, and succeeded his father in this

manor. He bore for his arms, *Argent, three lions rampant, sable, ribboned argent.* In 1735, he married Jane, daughter of Edward Barrell, A.M., prebendary of Rochester, by whom he had two sons, Edward, vicar of Sutton at Hone, and Thomas, town major of Quebec; and three daughters. The Rev. Edward Faunce married, and had one son, who inherited this estate. Among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum is part of a roll, containing a survey of the marsh of Kent, with designs of several of the manor houses, and among them, this of St. Mary's, then belonging to the lord Cobham.

NEWLANDS is a reputed manor in this parish, which was, as high as any evidence can be traced, the inheritance of the family of Somer, since called Somers, who bore for its arms, *Vert, a fess dancette, ermine.*

Richard le Somer made his will, as appears by the records of the church of Rochester, in 1347, and died possessed of this manor, and other lands in Halstow, Higham, Leigh, and elsewhere in this county; from whom it descended to John Somer, who was chancellor of the Exchequer in the reign of Henry VI. From him it again went to Jeffry Somer, who left two sons, William, who possessed this manor of Newlands, and Thomas, whose descendants were of Halstow. William was knighted, and thrice employed by Queen Elizabeth as public ambassador to foreign states. His son, John Somer, clerk, was of St. Margaret's, Rochester, and left two daughters his coheirs, of whom, Maria, the eldest, married Sir Alexander Temple, who in her right became entitled to this manor. His heir, in the reign of Charles I., conveyed it by sale to the treasurers of the Chest, for sick and maimed seamen, at Chatham, in whom the possession of this manor and estate is now vested.

There is no court belonging to this manor, which is held of the manor of St. Mary's.

COOMBE is a manor here, which, soon after the Conquest, was in the possession of Wlfward de Hou, surnamed Henry, who became a monk of the priory of St. Andrew's, in Rochester, and afterwards gave to that institution half of his tithes in this parish, and the third part of his substance, after his death; to which his wife and sons, Robert Hereward, Siward, and Edward, freely consented.

How this manor afterwards passed we have not discovered,

but find it, in the reign of Henry VIII., in the possession of Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Allington castle, and he conveyed it away in that reign, among other premises, to the king; when it appears to have remained vested in the crown till Queen Elizabeth granted it to Sir Thomas Walsingham.

At the commencement of the reign of George II., this manor of Coombe was purchased by the trustees of the rector of St. George's church, Bloomsbury, London, with part of a sum of money, allotted at the first erection of the same in 1731, towards the support of the rector; which money was directed to be laid out in the purchase of lands and tenements in fee simple, as a perpetual fund, for the maintenance of the rector and his successors.

St. Mary's, Hoo, is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a small building, consisting of one aisle and a chancel. In the nave is an inscription in memory of Thomas Lukyn, obt. 1412, and Joane his wife; in the churchyard is a tomb, partly sunk into the ground, being a memento for Henry White, a benefactor to this parish, and others in this neighbourhood.

This rectory is valued in the king's books at £16 12 1, the yearly tenths being £1 13 2½.

In 1821 there were thirty dwellings in the parish of St. Mary, Hoo; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 167, females 119, making a total of 286 souls.

Eastward from St. Mary's lies the parish of Allhallows, so called from the church being dedicated to All Saints, commonly denominated All Hallows.

THIS PARISH lies low and unhealthy, having the marshes both on the north and east sides, the boundary of the former being the river Thames, and of the latter, the water called the North Inlet, which separates it from the Isle of Grain. The soil is the same as that of St. Mary's, last described, but, lying lower, is more fertile. The village, with the church, stands about a quarter of a mile from the marshes, at the north-east end of the upland, having no thoroughfare, except towards the

marshes, and is altogether a most unfrequented and dreary situation.

The paramount manor of Hoo claims over this parish, subordinate to which is the MANOR OF WINDHILL, which, in the reign of Edward I., was part of the possessions of the abbot and convent of Reading; with whom it remained till the dissolution, under Henry VIII., when it was surrendered to the king, who granted it to Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Allington castle, to hold *in capite*, by the service of the tenth part of one knight's fee; but he, in the 34th year of that reign, conveyed it back to the king.

The manor of Windhill remained in the crown till the reign of James I., who granted it to the city of London, whence it was soon afterwards conveyed by sale, by the trustees of that corporation, to Sir William Garway, of London, who died possessed of it in 1625, and left by his wife Elizabeth, seventeen children, of whom, Henry, the second son, succeeded him in this manor. He was afterwards knighted, and lord mayor in 1640; one of his descendants alienated it, in the reign of Charles II., to Richard Head, of Rochester, from whom it descended down to Sir Francis Head, bart. of the Hermitage, in Higham. He died possessed of the property in 1768; subsequent to which, it passed down in the same manner as that seat, and his other estates, to his heirs, viz. one fourth to the daughter of Francis Roper Head, esq.; another fourth to James Roper Head, esq.; and the remaining moiety to Mrs. Elizabeth Campbell Lill, who became entitled to the fee of the same.

ALLHALLOWS HOUSE is an estate here, the mansion of which is situated adjoining the churchyard, and was formerly a seat of good account, being anciently called *Allhallows place*, and the *Place house*. It was once the estate of the eminent family of the Pimpe's, of Pimpe's court, in East Farleigh; one of whom, Sir Philip de Pimpe, was proprietor of estates within this hundred, who, together with others, in the 11th of Edward III., were assessed, to furnish out twelve men at arms, and six hobelers, for the defence of the sea-coast at Yenlade, in Hoo; of which number, Sir William de Pimpe, was to find two men at arms. His descendant, Thomas Pimpe, senior, died in the 14th of Edward IV., and was interred in Allhallows church. He left, as now appears by will in the registrar's office in this

diocese, two sons, William and John, and three daughters, one of whom, Margery, was prioress of Malling. Soon after which, this estate passed by purchase to the family of Copinger's, of which line Sir William, son of Sir Walter Copinger, of Buxall, in Suffolk, was lord mayor in 1512, in which year he died. They bore for their arms, *Or, three bendlets, gules, surmounted of a fess azure, charged with three plates.* His descendant, Ralph Copinger, esq., left two daughters his coheirs, of whom the eldest, Elizabeth, married Sir Harbottle Grimston, eldest son of Edward Grimston, of Bradfield, in Essex, and he in her right became possessed of this estate, and was afterwards created a baronet. His second, but eldest surviving son, Sir Harbottle Grimston, succeeded him in this estate, and after the death of Charles I., was strenuous in his endeavours to promote the Restoration; of which, as well as of his merits, Charles II., at his return, entertained a just sense. He was elected speaker of the house of Commons at the Restoration, as well as master of the rolls, and died in 1683, when he was succeeded in title and estates by Sir Samuel Grimston, bart., his only surviving son, who, upon coming to possession, soon after alienated this estate. After some intermediate owners, it was sold, in 1713, to Mr. Samuel Fasham, of Deal; from whom it descended to his grandchildren, Samuel and Edward Roby, of Deal, and Mr. Bethel Dawes, their brother in law; Mr. Edward Roby died in 1775, Mr. Dawes in 1776, and Mr. Samuel Roby in 1777. Mr. Dawes devised his interest in this estate to Mr. Charles Ferne Sawkins, for life, with remainder to Mr. Samuel and Edward Roby, aforesaid; the latter of whom dying before the testator, the fee of the reversion of Mr. Dawes's third part, after Mr. Sawkins's death, became vested, one part in the testator's heirs at law, and the other in the children of Mr. Samuel Roby, who died in 1777. The other two thirds of this estate passed to the children of Mr. Samuel and Mr. Edward Roby, of Deal, brothers, both deceased, as aforesaid.

Mention is made in the court rolls of Hoo manor, of the manor of Newhall, in this parish.

ALLHALLOWS is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester; the church being dedicated to All Saints, commonly called Allhallows.

In this edifice are the following monuments and inscriptions:

in the chancel, a brass for Stephen Cheraton, vicar, obt. 1518; and another for William, son of Henry Copinger, obt. 1594. His monument was fixed against the north wall, but the chancel becoming ruinous, this monument was destroyed, whereon was a shield, with *three bendlets surmounted of a fess charged with three rundles, within a bordure.* On the south wall is a monument, almost defaced, bearing the arms of the Copinger's, with twelve quarterings, for Thomas Copinger, of Buxall, eldest son of Henry Copinger, esq., which was erected by his son and heir in 1587.

The vicarage of this church was a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly value of £30, the yearly tenths being 16s. 9½d.

In 1821 there were thirty-three dwellings in the parish of Allhallows; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 142, females 117, making a total of 259 souls.

Stoke, the last parish in this hundred, lies next southward from that of Allhallows, a small part of which is within the hundred of Shamel. This place, as appears by the *Textus Roffensis*, was called Andscohesham in the time of the Saxons. In Domesday it is entered Estookes, and Stockes; and, in later deeds, by its present name of Stoke.

Eadberht, king of Kent, gave part of his land for the good of his soul, and the remission of his sins, to the bishopric of St. Andrew's, in Rochester; and Ealdulf, also a bishop of the same place, gave the district called Hohg, at a place there named Andscohesham, containing, by estimation, ten plough lands, with all appurtenances, which gift was confirmed by Archbishop Nothelm and King Ethelbert, in the metropolitan city in 738. This estate was afterwards wrested from the church of Rochester during the Danish wars, and subsequently possessed by Earl Godwin of two men, who held it of the bishop of Rochester, and sold it without the concurrence of the bishop. The earl was succeeded by his eldest son, Earl Harold, king of England, after whose death William the Conqueror gave this manor to Odo, bishop of Bayeux, but Lanfranc, archbishop of Canterbury, recovering the manor of Stoke from that

rapacious prelate, at the solemn assembly, held at Penenden heath in 1076, restored it, with its church, to Gundulph, bishop of Rochester, which gift was confirmed by Archbishop Anselm, and several of his successors.

Gundulph having divided the revenues of his church between himself and his convent, allotted this manor to the share of the monks, *ad victum*, that is, to the use of their refectory.

On bishop Gilbert de Glanvill's coming to the see of Rochester, in 1185, he found it much impoverished by the gifts of several of the best estates belonging thereto, made by bishop Gundulph to the monks of his priory, which occasioned a dispute, the bishop claiming this manor as having belonged to the maintenance of his table. In consequence of this, though he deprived them of the church of Stoke, yet they continued in possession of this manor, with its appendages, till the dissolution under Henry VIII.

In the 7th of Edward I. the bishop of Rochester claimed certain liberties by the grant of Henry I. in all his lands and fees, and others by ancient custom, in the lands of his priory in Stoke, and other lands belonging to this church, which were allowed by the jury, as they were again in the 21st year of that reign, upon a *quo warranto*. Again, in the 7th of Edward II. they were confirmed by letters of inspeximus, granted by Edward III., and, in the 21st of Edward I., on another *quo warranto*, the prior of Rochester claimed that he and his predecessors had, in the manors of Stoke, *view of frankpledge* from beyond memory, which was allowed by the jury. He further claimed *free warren* by grant from Henry I., but the jury found that neither he nor his predecessors had used it, in consequence of which it was therefore determined that they should remain without that liberty; but Edward I., by his charter in his 23d year, granted that liberty to the prior and convent, in all their demesne lands of this manor, among others, so that no one should enter in them either to hunt, or take anything which belonged to warren, without their licence, on the forfeiture of £10. In the 15th of Edward I. the manor of Stoke was valued at £9. At the dissolution of the priory of Rochester, under Henry VIII., this manor was surrendered to the king, who settled it on his dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom the inheritance has since remained.

There is a court-leet and court-baron held for this manor.

In 1720 Jacob Sawbridge, esq., one of the South Sea directors, purchased the lease of the manor farm of Stoke, under the yearly rent of £28, clear of all taxes, the rack rent of which was £90 per annum. The lessee was afterwards the earl of Darnley.

TUDERS, formerly spelt *Teuders*, is a manor in this parish, anciently held of the bishop of Rochester, as of his manor of Stoke.

In the 12th of King John this estate was held by Hugo de Stokes, as half a knight's fee, of the bishop of Rochester, by knight's service. His descendant, Theodore de Stokes, afterwards possessed it, and ingrafted his name therein, as from that time this manor was called *Theodores*, and, for brevity, *Tudors*. Philipott says he had seen an ancient roll of Kentish arms, wherein Tudor of Stoke bore the same coat armour with Owen Theodore, vulgarly called *Tuder*, being *Azure, a chevron between four helmets, argent.*

After that name became extinct here, this manor passed into the line of the Woodward's, one of whom, Edward Woodward, possessed it at the latter end of the reign of Henry VIII. His descendant, at the beginning of the reign of Elizabeth, conveyed it to John Wilkins, gent., of Stoke parsonage, who died in the 19th year of that reign, and was succeeded herein by his heir, George Wilkins, gent., who married Elizabeth, one of the daughters of Mr. John Copinger, of Allhallows, by whom he left no issue. He lies buried in this church, his arms being, *Gules, on a chevron, argent, a demi lion between two martlets, sable, between three welk shells, or.* One of his descendants, in the reign of Charles I., alienated the estate to one Bright, and Edward Bright, clerk, died possessed of it in 1670, on which this estate, by virtue of a mortgage term, passed into the possession of William Norcliffe, esq. of the Temple, London, whose widow possessed it after his decease, and, upon her demise, it became the property of the Rev. Mr. Henry Southwell, of Wisbeach, in the isle of Ely.

Hugo de Stokes, owner of this manor in the reign of King Stephen, gave the tithes to the monks of St. Andrew's in Rochester, to whom it was confirmed by Archbishop Theobald,

and the prior and convent of Canterbury, and also by several bishops of Rochester.

At the dissolution of the priory of Rochester, under Henry VIII., this portion of tithes, together with the rest of the possessions of the monastery, were surrendered into the hands of the king, who settled them on his newly erected dean and chapter of Rochester, where they still remain.

This portion of tithes, called *Tudor's portion,* was surveyed soon after the death of Charles I. in 1649, when it was returned that the same arose out of the tenement of Tudor's, and several other tenements, called Bartons, in the parish of Stoke, with six fields, containing by estimation fifty-three acres; the improved value of which premises was £5 per annum, all of which were let by the dean and chapter, in the 3d of Charles I., to Sarah Wilkins, at 6s. 8d. per annum.

The lessee was afterwards Baldwin Duppa Duppa, esq. of Hollingbourne, in this county.

Malmayns is a manor in this parish, now commonly known by the name of *Maaman's hall,* which was given, as well as that of Stoke, by the Conqueror, to Odo, bishop of Bayeux, which was recovered from him at the solemn assembly held at Penenden heath, as having before belonged to the church of Rochester.

After that period it became part of the possessions of the family of the Malmain's, a branch of which resided here, and fixed its name thereon. John de Malmaines, son of Henry, died possessed of it in the 10th of Edward II., and, in the 20th of Edward III., the heirs of Thomas de Malmainis, of Hoo, paid aid for three quarters of a knight's fee, which John Malmainis had before held of the king.

Richard Filiot seems soon after to have been in possession of this manor, which passed from him into the family of the Carew's, as Nicholas Carew, of Beddington, in Surrey, died possessed of it in the 14th of Richard II. His son, Nicholas de Carew, armiger de Beddington as he wrote himself in the 9th of Henry V., conveyed this manor by sale to one Iden, from which line it passed, in the reign of Henry VIII., to John Parker, whose arms were, *Sable, on a fess engrailed, argent, between three hinds tripping, or, three torteaux, each charged*

with a pheon of the second, which coat is now quartered by Lord Teynham. His sole daughter and heir, Elizabeth, carried it in marriage to John Roper, esq. of Linsted, who was first knighted, and afterwards created Baron Teynham, in this county; and his son, Christopher lord Teynham died in 1622, and by will devised this manor to his second son, William Roper, esq., who alienated it in the reign of Charles I. to one Jones. In his descendants it continued till the reign of George I., when it passed by sale from that name to Baldwin Duppa, esq., who died in 1737, and his son, Baldwin Duppa, esq. of Hollingbourne hill, possessed it at his death in 1764, after which period it continued in the same family down to Baldwin Duppa Duppa, esq. of that place.

Sir John Malmaines, of this parish, in 1303 made his petition to Robert Abbot, and the convent of Boxley, appropriators of this church, that, as he was, on account of his house being situated at such a distance from the parish church, often prevented from attending divine service, he might be suffered to build an oratory for himself and family on his own estate, and have a priest to celebrate divine service therein, to which the abbot and convent assented, provided, as far as might be, no prejudice should accrue to the mother church, or the vicars of the same, which license was confirmed by Thomas, bishop of Rochester, the same year.

Ralph Malesmæins, in the reign of Henry I., became a monk of the priory of St. Andrew's, in Rochester, and on that account granted to the monks there *his tithes* of Stockes; and, after his death, Robert Malesmæins, his son, confirmed it, as did Theobald, archbishop of Canterbury, Ralph Prior, and the convent of Canterbury.

At the dissolution of the priory of Rochester, in the 32d of Henry VIII., this portion of tithes was surrendered to the king, who granted the same to his newly erected dean and chapter of Rochester, where the inheritance has since remained.

The lessee, under the dean and chapter, was Baldwin Duppa Duppa, esq. of Hollingbourne hill.

Reginald de Cobham, son of John de Cobham, possessed lands in this parish, and in the 14th of Edward III. procured *free warren* in all his demesne lands in Stoke.

Henry VIII. granted to George Brooke lord Cobham, a marsh

called Coleman's, otherwise Bridge marsh, lying in Oysterland, otherwise Eastland, in Stoke, and other premises, parcel of the priory of Christ church, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service.

STOKE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester, the church being dedicated to St. Peter.

In the chancel are the following brasses: one for John Wilkins, gent., born in this parish, and married to Elizabeth, daughter of John Copinger, esq. of Allhallows, obiit 1575; arms, Wilkins impaling Copinger, and other coats; a memento for William Cardiff, B.D. vicar, obiit 1415; another for Frances Grimestone, daughter of Ralph Copinger, esq., and wife of Henry Grimestone, esq., obiit 1608.

This church was anciently an appendage to the manor of Stoke.

On the dissolution of the abbey of Boxley, under Henry VIII., the church and vicarage of Stoke, together with the rest of the possessions of the monastery, were surrendered to the king, when this rectory, with the advowson of the vicarage, was granted by that prince to William Goodwyn, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service. He alienated the property to John Parke, whose only daughter carried these premises in marriage to John Roper, of Linsted, who sold them to John Wilkins, gent., and he levied a fine of them in Easter term, and died possessed of the same. They have since passed in like manner as Malmaines to Baldwin Duppa Duppa, esq.

The vicarage of Stoke was a discharged living in the king's books, of the yearly value of £30, the yearly tenths being 17s. 2d.

In 1650 this vicarage, on the survey taken, was valued at £40. Mr. Thomas Miller then being the incumbent.

Nicholas de Carew, under Edward III., founded a chantry in this parish for two priests in the church of Stoke.

In 1821 there were sixty-nine dwellings in the parish of Stoke; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 193, females 157, making a total of 350 souls.

THE HUNDRED OF SHAMEL.

This hundred lying eastward of that of Toltingtrow, is written in Domesday record *Essamele*, and in other records, *Scamele*. In the 6th of Henry III. this hundred belonged to the Knights Templars, but, in the 7th of Edward I., was, with the court-leet and profits, in possession of Henry de Cobham, junior, eldest son of Sir John lord Cobham, by Joane his first wife, daughter of Sir Robert de Septvans. His descendant, John lord Cobham, died, holding this estate, in the 9th of Henry IV. when it continued in his descendants down to Henry Brooke lord Cobham. He, being attainted in the 1st of James I., and found guilty of treason, was spared by the king's clemency, but this hundred, among his other estates, was vested in the crown, soon after which, the hundred of Shamel, with the manor of Shorne, was by that prince granted to Robert Cecil, earl of Salisbury, who sold it to Sir John Leveson, or Lewson. His brother, Sir Richard Lewson, of Staffordshire, under Charles I., alienated the property to Mr. George Woodyer, since which it continued in the same owners as the manor of Shorne, Mrs. Elizabeth Gordon having become owner of this hundred, with the manor of Shorne appendant.

The hundred of Shamel contains the parishes of Cliff, Cowling, Higham, Chalk, Denton, Merston, Shorne, Frindsbury, Cobham *in part*, Stroud, Cookstone, Halling, with the churches of those parishes, and part of the parish of Stoke, whereof the church stands in another hundred.

Cliff, near Rochester. Northeastward from Higham lies Cliff, called in ancient records *Clive*, and sometimes *Bishop's Clive*. It is also named Cliff at Hoo, from being near that hundred and cliff near Rochester, to distinguish it from the parish of the same name near Dover. This parish, as well as that close to Dover, is frequently styled West Cliff, the

former as being westward of the latter, and the latter as being westward of St. Margaret at Cliff, the adjoining parish eastward from the same.

This district takes its name from the rock, or cliff, whereon it stands, and is by many supposed to have been the spot, called, in the time of the Saxons, Cloveshoe, where several councils were held by the British bishops, of which a further account will be given.

This parish is very large, extending about five miles from north to south, of which nearly three are marsh lands, reaching to the Thames, which constitutes its northern boundary, and encircles the whole level, winding round it in the form of a crescent. The situation is pleasant, but extremely unhealthy, in consequence of its contiguity to the great quantity of marsh land. The upland lies high, though being mostly a level surface, the soil dry and fertile, consisting of a loamy mould, especially in the common unenclosed field, which comprehends the middle part of the parish, and contains upwards of 2000 acres of arable land. However, adjoining to it, near Cowling, the soil becomes very wet and poor, and much covered with bushes, and thick hedge-rows. Southward of the common field, on the road to Rochester, the land rises to the hilly country at the southern boundary of the parish, situated at which place is the manor of Mortimers.

The village of Cliff, called Church street, stands on the northern edge of the upland, on the chalk cliff overhanging the adjoining level of marshes, having the church within it, a conspicuous object to the river and neighbouring county. Near the churchyard is a capital messuage and estate, called *Court-sole*, for many generations the property of the family of the Roper's, some of whom occasionally resided here. It continued in that name till Christopher lord Teynham, in 1645, alienated it to Sir Edward Monins, bart., of Waldershare, whose brother, Sir Thomas, by will in 1676, gave it to dame Elizabeth, his wife, as she did in like manner, in 1705, to Mr. Thomas Short, who had married Elizabeth, her niece. He, in 1721, conveyed it by sale to Mr. Joseph Hasted, of Chatham, whose grandson Edward, of Canterbury, afterwards inherited the same. It subsequently passed to Mr. Thomas Williams, gent., of Horton, in this county.

It is said that this village was formerly much larger, great part having been destroyed by fire, A.D. 1520, which accident it never recovered, the number of inhabitants constantly lessening. A fair is held here on October 19th, annually.

Not far distant is another village, called, from its situation, West street, about half a mile from which is the parsonage house, a mansion fit for the incumbents of so rich a benefice, though seldom occupied by them. In the marshes, which are called Cliff level, (under the direction of the commissioners of sewers, held at Rochester,) there is a common mead, which is jointly stocked by the owners of estates here, according to the property they are entitled to therein.

This is in general supposed to be the place mentioned under the name of Cloveshoe, meaning Cliff at Hoo, where several of the councils of the British bishops were formerly held. Of this opinion are Camden, Baxter, &c. and indeed Mr. Somner, but others are inclined to think that Cloveshoe meant Abingdon, in Berkshire, anciently written Sheovesham corruptly for Cleovesham. They urge that, in addition to the similarity of appellation, was the convenience of its situation for the members who attended those councils, that place being in the centre of the island, and in the kingdom of Mercia, whereas Cliff occupies a retired spot in Kent, being extremely inconvenient on that account for the major part of those who had business to transact there. Dr. Plot sagaciously observes, it is no wonder the kings of Mercia convened councils in Kent, which at that time they had wholly conquered, as Cuthred, king of Kent, in 796, was not able to give a small piece of land to Christ church, without the permission of Cenulf, king of Mercia.

In a national synod, assembled at Hertford in 673, at which the archbishop of Canterbury presided, it was determined that a council should be annually held at Cloveshoe. Whether this meeting occurred regularly we do not know, the following are the only instances transmitted to posterity :

In 742 a great council was held there, at which Ethelbald, king of Mercia, presided, when Cuthbert, archbishop of Canterbury, and the rest of the bishops, likewise sat in the assembly.

In 747 a famous council was held there, under Archbishop Cuthbert, on which occasion were present, in addition to the

bishops and priests, many other ecclesiastics, with Ethelbald king of Mercia, attended by his princes and great men.

In 798 another council was held under Archbishop Athelard.

In 800 a provincial council was convened at Cloveshoe, by Cenulf, king of Mercia, and Athelard, archbishop of Canterbury, all the bishops of the province, the great men, abbots, and other persons of dignity, being present.

In 803 a council was held by Athelard, and twelve bishops, at which the see of Canterbury, according to the precept of Pope Leo III., was restored to its pristine rights.

In 822 a synodal council was held at that noted place called Cloveshoe, Bernulf king of Mercia, and Wlfred archbishop of Canterbury presiding, all the bishops, abbots, and nobles, of whatsoever dignity they might be, also attending, when, among other things, the injuries done to the church of Canterbury by Ceonulf, king of Mercia, were discussed, and several lands restored to that see ;—and

In 824, or 825, a synodal council was held at Clofeshoum, Beornulf king of Mercia, and Archbishop Wlfred, presiding, with the bishops, abbots, and all the princes of the Mercians, sitting at the same.

King Richard II., in his 1st year, directed his writs to the sheriffs of Kent and Essex, commanding them to erect beacons on either side of the river Thames, opposite to each other, in order that, by the firing of the same, notice might be given of any sudden attempt at invasion by the enemy. In consequence of such ordinance, one beacon was erected at Cliff, and another at Tilbury, in Essex, among the several places designated along the banks of the river.

This parish was anciently bound to contribute, among other places in this neighbourhood, to the repairs of the ninth pier of Rochester bridge.

The manor of Cliff, with its appurtenances, was given to the priory of Christ church, in Canterbury, in the time of the Saxon heptarchy, its possessions having been subsequently increased by King Offa, who, in 791, gave Dunmalingdene, and Queen Ediva, in 860, Oysterland, bestowing also various other benefactions. The whole remained parcel of the possessions of the priory at the consecration of Archbishop Lanfranc, in the 4th of William the Conqueror, when that prelate, in the

division made of the revenues of his church, allotted the manors of Cliff, Mallingden, and Bury court, in this parish, for the subsistence, clothing, and other necessary purposes, of the monks of Christ church; but the premises called Prior's hall, Horsing, East Marsh, Bishop's Marsh, and others, he retained as part of the revenues of the see of Canterbury, for the use of himself and his successors.

These possessions appertaining to the priory were entered in the general survey of Domesday, under the title of *Terra Monachorum Archiepi*, in which record the archbishop himself is stated to have held them.

In the 15th of Henry III. the possessions of the priory of Christ church in Cliff and Grean were valued at £9, and Edward II., in his 10th year, granted to the priory of Christ church *free warren* in all their demesne lands they had possessed in the time of his grandfather. In an ancient valuation the temporalities of the priory in this parish were estimated at £130 per annum. It appears by the *Textus Roffensis*, that there was once a chapel at this manor of West Cliffe.

These manors and premises continued part of the possessions of the priory of Christ church, till the dissolution under Henry VIII., when, being surrendered to the crown, the king, in his 32d year, granted to Sir George Brooke lord Cobham, the manors of West Cliff and Bury court, the marsh grounds called Great Hersing marsh, Shepherd's hope, South marsh and Tuckneys, in this parish, together with other premises in Stoke, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service, at the annual rental of £7 13 8½; and Edward VI., in his 2d year, granted also the marshes called Burye marsh, otherwise Patriche marsh, *Crawledge* marsh, Haverwick marsh, and others in the parishes of West Cliffe and Stoke, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service, to the Lord Cobham. His grandson, Henry lord Cobham, being attainted in the 1st of James I., his estates became forfeited to the crown; notwithstanding which, the manor of West Cliff, whether by a family entail or otherwise we have not found, went into the possession of Sir John Brooke, second son of Sir Henry Brooke Cobham, fifth son of the above-mentioned Lord Cobham. He, in the 20th of Charles I., in consideration of his loyalty and sufferings, was created Baron Cobham to him and his heirs male, when he alienated all his estates in this parish,

containing upwards of 1400 acres of land, with others in the neighbourhood, to James duke of Richmond, who died possessed of them in 1655, after which they descended in like manner as Cobham hall, down to the Right Hon. the earl of Darnley, who is the present possessor of this property.

A court-leet and court-baron is held for this manor.

The manor of Burye, or Berry court, on the attainder of Henry lord Cobham, devolved to the crown, soon after which, the reversion of the estate, after the death of the Lady Frances, his widom, was granted to Sir Robert Cecil, earl of Salisbury, son of that eminent statesman, William lord Burleigh, who had married Elizabeth, sister of Henry lord Cobham, above mentioned. He passed away this manor to Bernard Hyde, esq. of London, in whose descendants it continued for many generations, until sold to one Harvey, whose son, Samuel Clay Harvey, esq. died possessed of it in 1791, when his heirs and assigns became entitled to the same.

The manor of Mallingden, now called Molland and Dean Fee, on the dissolution of the priory of Christ church, under Henry VIII., passed to the hands of the king, where it continued till Queen Elizabeth granted it to William Ewens, who alienated it to one Brown, from whom it passed to Mr. Sompner. He sold it to one Hills, whence, after some intermission, it was conveyed by sale to the Blackford's of Holnicote, in Somersetshire. Henrietta Blackford, spinster, who died an infant in 1733, was possessed of one fourth of this manor, and other lands in Cliff and Higham, which then passed to her coheirs, Elizabeth Dyke, of Dulverton, in Somersetshire, widow, and Elizabeth, her daughter, an infant, as coparceners in fee simple. Subsequent to that period Elizabeth Dyke, the mother, conveyed these premises in Somerset and Devonshire to her son, Edward Dyke, and in 1735 procured an Act of Parliament for an exchange of lands in the above counties, for others in Oxfordshire and Kent, when, among the latter was this manor, and by that means he became possessed of the entire fee, in which he had had some share before. He died without issue, and Elizabeth his niece, daughter and heir of Thomas Dyke, esq. of Felton, became his heir, being then wife of Sir Thomas Ackland, bart., who, in her right, became possessed of the estate. This family was originally of Lankey, near Barnstaple, in Devon, and

derived its name from their seat there, called Accalan, or Aclan, in allusion to which they bore in early times for their coat, *Three oak leaves on a bend, between two lions rampant.* The Acland's anciently wrote their name, De Accalan, and afterwards Akelane and Acland. John Acland, esq. was of Columb John, in the parish of Broad Clift, near Exeter, who, by Charles I., for his eminent services in the royal cause, was made a baronet, but the letters patent being destroyed in the confusion of those times, and a long minority ensuing in the family after the Restoration, new letters of exemplification were not granted till 1677. However, there was a special clause therein of precedency from the date of the first patent. His direct descendant was Sir Thomas Ackland, bart. of Columb St. John, above mentioned, the family bearing for their arms, *Quarterly* first and fourth, *argent, on a bend, sable, three lions' heads erased, argent, crowned, or.* He died in 1753, leaving two sons, John Dyke Acland, esq. of Pixton, in Somersetshire; and Thomas; the latter of whom at length succeeded to the title and this estate, which he died possessed of in 1794, when it afterwards passed to the late owner.

This manor is so small, that the court-baron is held under a tree, there being no manor house remaining.

Prior's Hall, with other premises retained by Archbishop Lanfranc, in this parish, as part of the revenues of the see of Canterbury, as already mentioned, remained in the possession of the archbishop, till Hubert, primate of Canterbury, in 1195, under Richard I., with the consent of the king, and for the mutual benefit of the churches of Canterbury and Rochester, exchanged, among other premises, a sheepcot, in Clive, called Estmers, and 220 sheep, with lands, in Clive, belonging to the same, as well as certain tenants in this parish, with the lands which they held, and the rents, services, and customs, without any reservation, to the archbishop and his successors, for the manor of Lambeth, &c. with the monks of St. Andrew's, in Rochester, to the use of their refectory, in like manner as they before had done by the manor of Lambeth, saving to the bishop of Rochester all episcopal rights; which exchange was confirmed that year by Richard I., and afterwards by King John in his 1st and 2d years.

The priory of St. Andrew's continued in possession of those

premises, and the manor belonging thereto, called Prior's hall, till the dissolution under Henry VIII., when they were, with all rents and revenues, surrendered to the king, who settled the same on his newly founded dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom they still continue.

William Gates, gent. of Rochester, died possessed of the lease of these premises in 1768, the term of which became vested in his executors, after which it passed to James Roper Head, esq.

THE OTHER PART OF THIS PARISH, not belonging to the archbishop, or church of Canterbury, was part of those possessions with which the Conqueror enriched Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in the record of Domesday. On the disgrace of that prelate, and the consequent confiscation of his estates, the manor of Cliff, together with those of Cardons and Mortimers, were surrendered to the crown.

THE MANOR OF CARDONS, in the reign of Edward I., was in the possession of the heirs of Robert Cardon, Robert le Ram, and Alice Salamon. In the 20th of Edward III., John Cardon and others, held it of the manor of Horton Kirkby, as the fourth part of one knight's fee, for which they paid respective aid at the ceremony of constituting the Black Prince a knight. Robert le Ram died in the 36th of that reign, possessed of his part of this estate; Joan, the wife of John Ram, most probably one of his descendants, lies buried in this church, under a gravestone, with her memorial in French, cut in large capitals, of a very ancient form, round the verge of the same.

In the 16th of Edward IV. this estate was in the hands of the crown, and the same year granted to the Carthusian monastery, commonly called the Charterhouse, in West Smithfield, London. On the suppression of that fraternity it went to the crown, and was confirmed to the king by the Act of the 31st of that reign. In the same year the king granted to Thomas Gibbons, citizen and vintner of London, the manor of Cardons, a tenement called Ballards, and another called Mortimers, and all other lands in Cliff and Higham late belonging to the above monastery, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service; before the end of which year he had the king's licence to alienate this manor, with Ballards and Draps, and their appurtenances in Cliff, and other premises, to Oliver Leder. How long the manor of Cardons

continued in the name of Leder, we do not find, but about the year 1725 it was sold to the dean and chapter of Rochester, in whom the inheritance of the same continued, the lessee being Mr. John Knight.

The manor of Mortimers, now generally called Blue Gates, is situated at the southern extremity of this parish, on the high road from Cliff to Rochester, and was anciently in the possession of a younger branch of the great family of the Mortimer's, the members of which, in aftertimes, settled their name on this property.

Hugh de Mortimer was possessed of the estate in the 1st of Edward III., and had a grant of a fair to his manor here. In the reign of Edward I., John Mortimer and Guncelin de Clyve were in possession of it, and, in the 20th of that reign, John, son of John Mortimer, and Robert le Ram, paid respective aid for it as half a knight's fee, which the above-mentioned John and Guncelin held at Shabrook, in Clyve.

John Mortimer resided at Mortimer's in the reign of Edward III., in the 11th of which prince he was summoned to provide an hobbeler, or light horseman, for the security of the coast about Genlade, in Hoo. After the family of Mortimer had left the possession of this place, that of Englefeild, of Berkshire, succeeded to the estate; a noble race, as Philipott calls it, reputed to be of Saxon extraction, and descended from Hasculfus de Inglefeild, who lived at the latter end of the reign of Canute. His direct descendant, Sir Thomas Englesfeild, speaker of the House of Commons, and chief justice of Chester in the reign of Henry VII., bore for his arms, *Barry of six, gules and argent, on a chief, or, a lion passant, argent,* and he alienated this manor, in the latter end of that reign, to John Sedley, esq., auditor of the Exchequer to that prince, whose descendant sold it to a Wentworth. Richard lord Wentworth, in the reign of Philip and Mary, conveyed it by sale to Mr. Thomas Polley, and his great grandson, George Polley, esq. passed it away to Robert Lee, esq., surveyor of the navy in the reign of Queen Anne. He died in 1757, at an advanced age, without issue, having been twice married, and by will gave this estate to his kinswoman, Mrs. Ward, of Chatham, for her life, with remainder to her brother, rear admiral Henry Ward, esq.,

both of whom possessed it, and on the death of the latter, A.D. 1768, it went to his son Edward Vernon Ward, esq.

CLIFF is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and being a *peculiar* of the archbishop of Canterbury, is, as such, within the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church, dedicated to St. Helen, stands at the north-west side of Church street, being a large handsome building, equal to most other churches in this county. It consists of two side aisles, a nave and a chancel, all lofty and spacious; the roof is covered with lead, and the walls embattled. At the west end is a good tower, in which is a clock, and a peal of bells. In the chancel are some fine remains of stained glass, and on the roof the arms of Bishop Arundel. Here are likewise six stalls for the use of the monks of Christ church, and others of the clergy, when they attended divine service in this edifice. An organ formerly stood in the church, the case of which only remains.

Among other monuments and memorials are the following: in the nave, round the verge of a coffin, like stone, in Saxon capitals, are these words: JONE LA FEMME JOHUN RAM GYST YCI DEU DE SA ALME EIT MERCI+: On a gravestone a brass, with the figures of a man and his two wives, and two children, being in memory of Bonham Faunce, gent. of this parish, who died in 1652, and another of brass, with the figures of a man and his two wives. On a pillar south of the entrance into the chancel, on a brass plate, is an inscription, with an account of John Browne's charity in this parish, and several other memorials for the families of the Clive's, the Gissome's, and the Baynard's, of this parish.

The church of Cliff, to which there belongs a manor in this parish, called Parson's borough, and for which a court-baron is still held, was part of the ancient possessions of the see of Canterbury, and excepted in the great deed of exchange which Archbishop Cranmer made with Henry VIII., whereby he conveyed all the rest of his estates in the parish to that king, as previously mentioned, the archbishop of Canterbury remaining patron of this rectory.

In the 15th of Edward I. the church of Clive was valued at 110 marks. In 1650 it was estimated at £200, and afterwards entered in the king's books at £50, the yearly tenths being £5.

Drawn by W.Bardett.

Engraved by H.Adlard.

THE ENTRANCE TO COWLING CASTLE.

KENT.

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The rector was paid subsequently £500 per annum by the parishioners in general, who agreed to pay all land and other taxes besides; they also levied the whole at so much per acre among themselves, which raised the amount to £650 per annum.

In 1821 there were 148 dwellings in the parish of Cliff; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 347, females 326, making a total of 673 souls.

Cowling. This parish was anciently written *Colinges*, and *Culinges*, from its cold and bleak situation. It is four miles in length from north to south, and not half so much in width, that part next the marshes being two miles across, is bounded by the river Thames. Northward the soil lies low and flat, being a stiff wet clay, with much rough ground, and thick enclosures throughout. In this part, near the edge of the marsh, is Cowling castle, the ruins of which are converted into a farm-house, about half a mile from which there is another village, with the church. At the eastern side of the parish, close to the marshes, whence the ground rises southward to a very high hill, is the seat, called, from its situation, Lodge hill, commanding on all sides a most extensive view. Cowling is an unfrequented place, the roads deep and miry, and altogether unhealthy and unpleasant.

Coenulf, king of Mercia, in the 12th of his reign, A.D. 808, gave to his faithful servant, Eadulf, one plough land and a half, with all its appurtenances, in Culinges, according as the bounds are mentioned in the charter.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor the lordship of Culinges was in the possession of Leofwyne, sixth son of Earl Godwin, who was slain at the battle of Hastings, fighting on the behalf of his brother, king Harold.

On the attainment of the crown, by William the Conqueror, he gave Culinges to Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whole lands it was entered in the record of Domesday. On the disgrace of that prelate, this estate became forfeited to the crown, and, in the reign of Edward I., was in the possession of Henry de Cobham, in this county. His son, John de Cobham, in the 17th of Edward III., obtained a charter of *free warren* in

all his demesne lands within his lordship of Coulyn. In the 20th of that reign he paid respective aid for this manor, as one knight's fee, which Henry de Cobham before held in Coulyng, of Margery de Rivers, as she had done of the king. He died possessed of this manor in the 36th year of that reign, and was succeeded by his son John de Cobham, who, in the 4th of Richard II., obtained license to embattle and fortify his manor house erected here, which grant he caused to be engraved on a tablet, and placed on a tower at the entrance, where it is still visible, the words engraved on brass, in ancient characters, being as follow:

Knoweth That Beth And Shall Be,
That I Am Made In Help of The Contre,
In Knowing of Whiche Thing,
This Is Chartre And Witnessing.

The inscription is engraved in imitation of a deed, or charter, with his seal of arms appendant, and fixed on the eastern tower of the gate house. Thenceforward this mansion acquired the name of Cowling castle, at which time it appears there was a large park adjoining. He died possessed of this manor and castle in the 9th of Henry IV., leaving Joan, his granddaughter, wife of Sir Nicholas Hawberk, who afterwards married Sir John Oldcastle, when he, in her right, possessed this estate, and in consequence of his marriage, assumed the title of Lord Cobham, having had summons to Parliament accordingly. But, in the following reign, having engaged in a conspiracy, he was tried, condemned, and executed, being, at the time of his death, possessed, jointly with Joan his wife, of this manor and castle.

The story of Sir John Oldcastle being accused of heresy, before Thomas Arundel, archbishop of Canterbury, and the proceedings thereon are related in Foxe's Acts and Monuments. Sir John, on this accusation of heresy, retired to his castle of Cowling, for security; before which, the person sent with the citation appeared, desiring permission to enter and serve the same, but being refused admittance, he returned without performing his errand. After his execution, Joan, his wife, again became owner of this manor, with the advowson of the church, of which she died possessed in the 12th of Henry VI. She was then wife of John Harpden, who did not possess this or any other of her estates, as her only daughter and heir, by her

second husband, conveyed it in marriage to Sir Thomas Brooke, of Somersetshire, who became in her right lord Cobham. His descendant, Sir George Brooke, lord Cobham, resided here, and at other times at Cobham; during which period, Sir Thomas Wyatt, in the reign of Queen Mary, marched with six pieces of cannon to this castle, which proving impregnable, having only broke down the gate and a part of the wall, after some parley with lord Cobham, he marched the next night to Gravesend. He died in 1538, and by will gave to Anne his wife, all his household stuff at Cowling castle. His son and heir, Sir William Brooke, lord Cobham, at his death, in the 39th of Elizabeth, gave by will this estate to his second son, George Brooke, esq., who being engaged with his brother, Henry lord Cobham, in a conspiracy, was attainted of high treason in the 1st of James I., and executed, when his estates became forfeited to the crown. King James, however, in his royal bounty, restored the manor and castle to his son, then an infant, and afterwards knight of the Bath, who died possessed of them A.D. 1668. He was twice married, first to Penelope, daughter of Sir Moses Hill, by whom he left four daughters, his coheirs, viz. Pembroke, married to Mathew Tomlinson, esq.; Hill, to Sir William Boothby, bart.; Margaret, to Sir John Denham, K. B.; and Frances, to Sir Thomas Whitmore, K.B.; who in right of their wives, became joint proprietors of this castle. Soon after, Sir John Denham and Margaret his wife, died without issue, on which her share descended to her three sisters and their husbands.

In 1669, Mathew Tomlinson, Sir William Boothby, and Sir Thomas Whitmore, made a division of this estate, excepting the advowson, into three equal parts, by deed. In that partition, COWLING LODGE, and certain lands adjoining, were allotted to Mathew Tomlinson; New barn, and lands contiguous, to Sir William Boothby; and the castle, and other lands, to Sir Thomas Whitmore; when it was agreed between them, that all royalties, privileges, and liberties belonging to this manor, should be equally divided. After that period, COWLING LODGE and estate were sold, after Tomlinson's death, by his heirs, to Thomas Farrington, esq. of Chesilhurst, whose descendant, of the same name, alienated it to Mr. Jacob Harvey, of Islington; and his descendant, Samuel Clay Harvey, A.D.

1760, built a good seat on this estate, called Lodge hill, intending to reside there; however, previous to its being finished, he alienated the same to Mr. John Smith, since deceased, and his brother, Thomas, afterwards possessed the same. New barn and estate was conveyed by Sir William Boothby and Hill his wife, to Samuel Clay, merchant of London, from whom it passed in marriage to one Harvey, whose descendant, Samuel Clay Harvey, died holding it in 1791, bequeathing the same to his nephew, Jacob Harvey, esq.

COWLING CASTLE and estate was alienated by Sir Thomas Whitmore to Frederick Herne, esq., who passed it by sale to Mr. Thomas Best, of Chatham; whose grandson, Thomas, of Chilston, died possessed of the property in 1795, and gave it by will to his nephew, George Best, esq. of Chilston.

The ruins of this castle shew that it must once have been a place of considerable strength, many parts of the towers and walls having remained in Mr. Hasted's time: it was a square building, encompassed by a moat. At a small distance south-eastward from the castle, and entirely independent of that structure, is a handsome gate house, flanked by two round towers, and embattled, having a portcullis to let down. Through this gate was the approach to the castle, as it is now to the farm-house.

In 961, Queen Ediva, mother of King Edmund and King Eadred, gave to the church of Christ, in Canterbury, her land in Culinge, free from all secular service, excepting that of repelling invasions, and repairing bridges and castles; and Edward II., in his 10th year, granted to the priory of Christ church *free warren* in all their demesne lands in this parish, among others therein mentioned.

COWLING is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The church is dedicated to St. James; and within are memorials to the families of Sir John Brooke, lord Cobham; Thomas Woodyear, gent. of Cowling; William Linch, gent.; and many others, belonging to this parish.

In the 15th of Edward I., this church was valued at twenty marks. The rectory in the king's books at £14, and the tenths at £1 8. It appears from the survey taken by order of the state, in 1650, that it was then valued at £70. It was after-

wards worth, with nine acres of glebe land, upwards of £200 per annum.

In 1821 there were fifteen dwellings in the parish of Cowling; and, at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 71, females 53, making a total of 124 souls.

The parish of Higham, in ancient records, is variously written, *Hecham*, *Hegham*, and *Heahham;* and was, from the reign of King Stephen to that of Edward III., frequently called *Lillechurch*, otherwise Higham, the former of which it acquired from a manor or ville in this parish, where a priory was built; but in later times it seems to have been denominated by its former name only, of Higham, that of Lillechurch being entirely omitted.

This parish is situated on the north side of the high London road, nearly opposite to Shorne. It lies low, adjoining the marshes, the river Thames being its northern boundary. The air of this district is extremely unhealthy, tending to produce intermittents, a fatality which appertains in general to those parishes lying on the north side of the high London road, as far as Canterbury, and thence again to the uplands of the Isle of Thanet.

Higham is about four miles in extent, from north-west to south-east, and but little more than a mile in breadth. The surface is flat, and the soil in general very fertile, excepting towards the eastern part, where the ground is high, with light land. The village and church stand close to and exposed to the marshes, which comprise nearly half the parish. The nunnery, now called the abbey, was situated not far from the east end of the church; near which is the farm-house, the sides and back part being built of stone, with windows of a gothic form, that discover some remnants of antiquity, and appear to have been part of the abbey. It is, however, supposed that this structure served for the offices, as in the field, on the south side, are many foundations, and, contiguous to the farm-yard, the remains of part of the thick stone wall, covered with ivy, being the enclosure of the abbey, the same having been carried quite round the yard. About a mile from the church, near the road to Cliff, is Lillechurch house, where the priory, or abbey of Higham, as it

is now called, is supposed to have been first erected: behind the garden, in a field called Church place, many human bones have been found. At the east end of the parish, on the road from Frindsbury to Cliff, is the estate of MOCKBEGGAR; and on the summit of the hill, southward, the mansion of HERMITAGE; below which, in the flat country, at an equal distance from the church, is the manor and hamlet of Higham ridgeway, a name evidently derived from the ancient causeway leading to the river. Plautius, the Roman general under the Emperor Claudius, in the year 43, is said to have passed the river Thames from Essex into Kent, near the mouth, with his army, in pursuit of the flying Britons, who, being acquainted with the fordable parts of the river, easily passed the stream: this passage is considered to have been from East Tilbury, in Essex, across the river to Higham.

Between these places there was a ferry on the river for many ages after, such having been the method of intercourse between the two counties of Kent and Essex for all these parts. It so continued till the dissolution of the abbey; previous to which period, Higham was also the place for unshipping corn and goods, in great quantities, from this part of the country, to and from London, and elsewhere. The probability of this having been a frequented ford or passage in the time of the Romans, is corroborated by the visible remains of the raised causeway or road, nearly thirty feet wide, leading from the Thames side, through the marshes, by Higham, southward to the ridgeway before mentioned, and thence across the high London road, on Gad's hill, to Shorne ridgeway, half a mile beyond which it joins the Roman Watling-street road, near the entrance into Cobham park.

In the pleas of the crown, in the 21st of Edward I., the prioress of the nunnery of Higham was found liable to maintain a bridge and causeway that led from Higham down to the river Thames, in order to give the better and easier passage to such as would ferry thence over into Essex.

This parish, among others, was anciently bound to contribute to the repairs of the ninth pier of Rochester bridge.

In the reign of Elizabeth, there was a fort or bulwark at Higham, for the defence of the river Thames, under the direction of a captain and soldiers.

Higham was anciently part of the possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in the record of Domesday. Upon the disgrace of that bishop, they became confiscated to the crown, where they remained till King Stephen, in the 14th year of his reign, gave them, by the name of Lillechurch, to William de Ipre, in exchange for the manor of Faversham.

King Stephen afterwards founded a *Nunnery*, of the Benedictine order, at Lillechurch, in Higham, to which his daughter, Princess Mary, retired, and afterwards became abbess of Rumsey.

After the death of King Stephen, William de Ipre, earl of Kent, was, with the rest of the Flemish, of whom he was principal, forced to abandon this kingdom, and their estates were all seized by the crown. However, in the 6th of King John, the nuns gave that prince £100 for his grant of the manor of Lillechurch; subsequent to which, Henry III., in his 11th year, granted and confirmed to the abbey of St. Mary of Sulpice, in Bourges, and the prioress and nuns of Lillechurch, that manor, in pure and perpetual alms, with all its appurtenances, liberties, and free customs; whence it appears that this house had then some dependence on that abbey. He also further granted to the prioress and nuns licence to have one fair at Lillechurch, for three days, annually, to commence on the festival of St. Michael, and, that they should possess them in like manner as the grant which they had of his father, King John, plainly testified.

King Henry, in his 50th year, granted to the prioress and nuns of Lillechurch an exemption from the suit they were yearly used to make at the court of the honour of Boloigne, at St. Martin the Great, in London, for their demesne lands in the manor of Lillechurch; and Edward I., in his 16th year, confirmed the above fair to the prioress and nuns there.

This monastery was subject to the visitation of the bishops of Rochester; and accordingly Hamo de Heth, bishop of Rochester, in 1320, visited it, and professed eight nuns; as he again did in 1328, when he buried Joan de Hadloe, prioress of this house, and afterwards confirmed Maud de Colcestre prioress, in her place, at Greenwich. At what time this priory was removed from Lillechurch, (where it was certainly first built,

near the present church of Higham,) is no where mentioned, nor is there any clue to discover it. That it was so, the ruins, as well as the change of name, are convincing proofs; nor is there any thing further worth recording relative to it, till the reign of Henry VII., at which period the manors of Lillechurch and Higham, with their lands and appurtenances, continued in the possession of the prioress. In the 17th year of the same reign, this house had become almost deserted, for it appeared, on the election of a prioress, that there was only a sub-prioress and two nuns belonging to the establishment, though there had been in former times sixteen. Soon after this, in 1548, Margaret countess of Derby and Richmond, having commenced the foundation of St. John's college, in Cambridge, died, and left her executors to carry on the design. One of those was John Fisher, bishop of Rochester, who being himself a learned man, and remarkably anxious for the increase of learning, obtained a licence of Henry VIII. to dissolve this monastery, with that of Bromhall, in Berkshire, in order that the lands and revenues of the same might be annexed towards the better support and maintenance of the above college. Accordingly, about the year 1521, these nunneries were dissolved, and, with their revenues, surrendered to the crown. Three years after, the master and fellows of that college obtained, at the instance of Bishop Fisher, of the king and Pope Clement VII., the priories, with their appurtenances, to be transferred and confirmed, for ever, to their college; where the inheritance of the site of this priory or abbey, as it is now called, the manor and church of Higham, with the manor of Lillechurch, and the rest of the lands and revenues belonging to it, were, some years back, purchased by Mr. Richard Hornsby, of Horton Kirkby, in this county, of Mr. Thomas Peake. Mr. Hornsby died possessed of the estate, after which, his interest in the same was sold to Mr. Thomas Williams and Mr. Thomas Smith, of Dartford, the former of whom sold it to Mr. John Prebble, who became lessee of the property.

GREAT and LITTLE OKELY are two reputed manors in this parish, which derive their name from *ac* or *ake*, an oak, and *ly*, a field; in the Saxon *Aclea*, a place in which there are plenty of oaks. In the reign of King John, John le Brun held half a knight's fee in Acle of William de Clovile, as he did of Warine

de Montchensie. In the 7th of Edward I., both these estates were in the possession of William de Clere, the former being held as half a knight's fee of Warine de Montchensie, as of his manor of Swanescombe; and the latter, as half a knight's fee, of the bishop of Rochester. Soon after these estates were possessed by two different branches of this family; Great Okely descended to Nicholas de St. Clere, from whom it passed to Walter Neile, who, as well as his descendants, were lessees to the abbey of Higham for great part of their possessions in this parish. One of them, in the reign of Henry VII., alienated it to John Sedley, esq. of Southfleet, in this county, whose descendant, Sir Charles Sedley, bart., in the reign of Charles II., passed away this manor by sale to Mr. Shales, of Portsmouth; who not long afterwards sold it to Peter Burrell, esq. of Beckenham, in this county, whose descendant, the Right Hon. Peter Lord Gwydir, lately possessed the same.

Little Okely manor descended from William de St. Clere to Nicholas de Clere, and from him to John de St. Clere, who paid respective aid for it in the 20th of Edward III., when the Black Prince was constituted a knight, as half a knight's fee, held of the bishop of Rochester. From this family it passed, after some intermission, to that of Cholmeley, one of which family, Sir Roger Cholmeley, of London, died possessed of this manor, and left it to one of his daughters and coheirs, among other premises. She married Mr. Beckwith, by whom she had one son, Roger, and two daughters, Elizabeth and Frances. She afterwards married Christopher Kenne, in Somersetshire, who was possessed of it in her right in the 22d of Queen Elizabeth, when having levied a fine, he sold the estate to one Thompson; who, in the reign of Charles I., alienated it to one Best, who passed it away to Sir Charles Sedley, bart.; from whom it went in the same way to Farnham Aldersey, one of whose descendants sold it to Mr. William Gates, gent. of Rochester. On his decease, in 1768, it passed to his son, of the same name; and his eldest son, Mr. George Gates, attorney at law, and town clerk of Rochester, died possessed of it in 1792, when his sister became entitled to the same.

There are no courts held for either Great or Little Okely manors.

The Hermitage is a pleasant seat in this parish, situated nearly

at the southeastern extremity, about a mile northward from the London road to Dover. It stands on a hill, commanding a most extensive prospect both of the Medway and Thames, the channel below the Nore, and a vast tract of country in Kent and Essex.

This seat was newly built by Sir Francis Head, bart., who enclosed a park round the same, and greatly improved the adjoining grounds; but the park has been since turned to other purposes. He resided here, and died possessed of the property, with the manor of Higham Ridgway, and other estates in this parish, in 1768, and was buried in a vault in Higham church. He was descended from Richard Head, of Rochester, who by Anne, daughter of William Hartridge, of Cranbrook, in this county, had issue four sons; of whom, Richard, the second, was advanced to the dignity of a baronet, in June 1676. He had three wives, first, Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Francis Merrick, alderman of Rochester, and by her he had three sons; Francis, of whom hereafter; Henry, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Summers, esq.; and Merrick, D.D., who espoused Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Dixon, D.D., prebendary of Rochester, by whom he left a daughter, Elizabeth, married to Theophilus Delangle; Dr. Head was rector of Leyborne and Ulcombe, in this county, and died in 1686.

Sir Richard Head, above mentioned, served several times in Parliament for the city of Rochester. He died in 1689, and was interred in Rochester cathedral, having been a great benefactor to the poor of St. Nicholas's parish, in that city.

Francis Head, esq. barrister at law, eldest son of Sir Richard, married Sarah, only daughter of Sir George Ent, of London, M.D. He died during his father's lifetime, in 1678, and was buried in the chancel of St. Margaret's church, Rochester. By his will he gave his house in St. Margaret's to that see, for the residence of the bishop and his successors.

Only two of his children survived him, viz. Sarah, married to John Lynch, esq. of Groves, and a son Francis, who succeeded his grandfather in titles and estate, and resided at Canterbury. He married Margaret, daughter and coheir of James Smythbye, esq., by whom he had six sons and three daughters, and he died in 1716. Of the above children, only four sons and one daughter survived him, viz. Sir Richard, his successor, who died un-

married in 1721; Sir Francis, of whom mention will again be made; James Head, esq. barrister, who died unmarried; and Sir John Head, bart. D.D., who was prebend and archdeacon of Canterbury, and succeeded his brother Sir Francis, but died in 1769, without surviving issue, although twice married. Anne, the surviving daughter of Sir Francis Head, bart. married William Egerton, LL.D., prebend of Canterbury, and grandson of the earl of Bridgewater.

Sir Francis Head, bart. the son, succeeded his brother Richard in title and estate, and, having rebuilt the seat, resided here as above mentioned.

The arms borne by this family were, *Argent, a chevron ermine, between three unicorns' heads, couped, sable.*

Sir Francis, last mentioned, married Mary, daughter and sole heiress of Sir William Boys, M.D., by whom he had three daughters and coheirs; Mary Wilhelmina, married in 1753 to the Hon. Harry Roper, eldest son of Henry lord Teynham, and died in 1758; Anne Gabriel, married to Moses Mendez, esq., and secondly to the Hon. John Roper, next brother to Harry Roper, by whom she had no issue, and died in 1771; Elizabeth Campbell, the third daughter, married the Rev. Dr. Lill, of Ireland, since deceased, by whom she had one son Francis, and three daughters.

On the demise of Sir Francis, this seat, with the manor of Higham, Ridgway, and other estates in this parish, devolved by settlement to his widow, Lady Head, who died in 1792, and was interred in the same vault with her husband. This seat, manor, and estate, then descended by settlement, one fourth part to the widow of Francis Head, esq. daughter of Mr. Egerton, married to Colonel Andrew Cowell, of the Guards, as guardian to her only daughter, by Mr. Head; another fourth part to James Roper Head, esq., his younger brother, who married Miss Burgess, and the remaining half part, or moiety, to Elizabeth Campbell, widow of Dr. Lill, in which divisions this estate remained vested.

Sir Anthony St. Leger, in the reign of Edward VI., was possessed of an estate here called the Brookes, consisting of marsh lands in Higham, all which, in the 4th of that reign, he conveyed to the king. This estate afterwards fell into the possession of the Stuarts, dukes of Richmond, from whom it passed

in like manner as Cobham hall to the Right Hon. the earl of Darnley.

HIGHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, consists of two aisles and two chancels, with a flat tower, containing two bells.

There are many monuments and memorials in this church to the families of the Inglett's, the Pearson's, the Cordwell's, the Boteler's, and the Hylton's, and one also to Robert Parker.

The vicarage of Higham was valued in the king's books at £8 10, and the yearly tenths at 17s., and, in 1650, this vicarage was estimated at £60 per annum. The vicar receives all tithes arising within this parish, with the exception of corn.

There are certain lands in Higham, in Okeley farm, of which the impropriator of the parsonage takes but half the tithes belonging to the dean and chapter of Rochester, of which a further account will be given, which lands are now called *dominical* lands.

In 1821 there were eighty-seven dwellings in the parish of Higham; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 306, females 262, making a total of 568 souls.

THE PARISH OF CHALK is written in Domesday *Celca*, and in the *Textus Roffensis, Celca* and *Cealces*. This place derives its name from its chalky and flinty soil, *cealc*, in Saxon, signifying a chalk stone.

The parish is situated twenty-four miles from London, its extent from north to south being about two miles, and from east to west a mile and a half; the southern part is very hilly, the northern a level flat surface, and the enclosures are in general large; the soil fertile, being mostly a loam, with some chalk. It contains about 1700 acres. The southern part is arable, the northern marsh land, bounded by the river Thames, being called Chalk and Denton level, is placed under the direction of the commission of sewers, held for that purpose at Rochester. The high London road passes through this district, on which, at the western boundary, is the village of West Cliff, usually called Chalk street, where the road divides; that to the northward by

the edge of the marshes, through the hamlet of East Chalk, towards Higham Cliff, and the hundred of Hoo, the other straight on to Rochester. About a mile eastward, near the road, is the church, standing alone on the brow of the hill, below which, about a mile northward, in the low country, is the hamlet of East Chalk, standing close to the marshes, which extend thence to the Thames. The contiguity of this spot to so large an extent of marshes, to which it is wholly exposed, renders it extremely unhealthy, producing agues, particularly in autumn. A fair is held here on Whit Monday.

In Chalk street are several flint knappers, who manufacture the *best gun flints* in England, or perhaps in Europe, great quantities being exported to foreign parts.

CHALK was anciently part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in the record of Domesday.

Upon the disgrace of that prelate these estates became confiscated to the crown, when this manor was divided into moieties, one of which was called East, and the other West Chalk.

In the reign of Henry III. the manor of EAST CHALK was in the possession of John de Burgo, son and heir of Hubert de Burgo, chief justiciary of England, and earl of Kent; who held it in right of his wife, daughter of William de Lanvaley, who gave it in the 55th year of that reign to the monks of the priory of Bermondsey, in Southwark.

In the 21st of Edward I., the king, by his writ of right, claimed this manor, but the jury gave it in favor of the prior; in which year also a *quo warranto* was brought against the prior for claiming to hold pleas of the crown, to have *free warren*, a market, fair, gallows, and waif, in East Chalk, &c., and the prior disclaimed his having any right to the same, when they consequently remained to the king. In Lib. Assiss. 29 Edward III. No. 70, may be seen the pleas between the priors of Norwich and Bermondsey, concerning this manor of East Chalk, which afterwards continued part of the possessions of the above monastery, till the final dissolution under Henry VIII., who granted the manor to George Brooke lord Cobham, to hold *in capite* by knight's service. His grandson, Henry lord Cobham, being, as so frequently observed, convicted of high treason in the 1st of James I., this estate, among others, became forfeited

to the crown, and was granted to Sir John Brooke, of Heckington, in Lincolnshire, second son of Sir Henry Brooke Cobham, who was fifth son of George lord Cobham above mentioned, and likewise possessed the other moiety called the MANOR OF WEST CHALK, otherwise WEST COURT, which was, in the reign of Henry III., possessed by the family of the Neville's. In the 22d of that reign, John, son of Hugh de Neville, let to ferme, to John de Cobham, his manor of West Chalk, for six years, at the annual rent of £20 sterling, and the said John then paid the first three years' rent in hand, and covenanted that at the end of the term he would give up the whole, both ploughed and sowed, in the same manner as he received it, and stocked with six oxen at the price of nine shillings each, and 147 sheep, at nine pence each, and fourteen geese. After that period John de Neville granted and confirmed the same to John de Cobham, and his heirs for ever. In the 21st of Edward I., the king, by his writ of right, claimed this manor against John de Cobham, grandson of the above-mentioned John, but he producing Hugh, son of the above John de Neville, as his vouchee, then under age, the same was respited till he should attain such age. His grandson, Sir John de Cobham, lord of Cobham, in the 17th of Edward III. obtained a charter of *free warren* within all his demesne lands within his lordship of Chalke, among others. He died about the 34th year of that reign, possessed of this estate, leaving one son, John de Cobham, who, the year after the death of his father, founded the college or chantry of Cobham, to which he gave this manor.

It continued part of the possessions of the college till the reign of Henry VIII., about the 30th year of which prince, the master and brethren foreseeing their approaching dissolution, sold it, with all the lands, by the consent of the king, to George lord Cobham, who was confirmed in the possession of the same by a clause in the Act of the 31st year of that reign. Soon after it appears that this manor was granted by Lord Cobham to Henry VIII., where it continued till Edward VI., in his 1st year, granted it to Edward Seymour, duke of Somerset, who, within a few weeks, regranted it to the king, in exchange for lands in other counties.

This manor afterwards devolved to the hands of Sir John Brooke, possessor also of that of East Chalk, as previously

mentioned, who was created, by Charles I., Baron Cobham. He alienated both these manors to James Stuart, duke of Richmond, who died possessed of them in 1656, leaving one son Esme, who died an infant at Paris in 1660, and a daughter Mary. These manors, as well as his titles, then went to Charles Stuart, son of George lord Aubigny, younger brother of the duke, at whose death, without issue, in 1672, all his estates in this county were, the same year, sold to pay debts, as well as for other purposes. The manors of East and West Chalk, with the duke's other estates in this parish, consisting of upwards of 700 acres of land, were purchased by Sir Joseph Williamson, who had married Catherine, only sister and next heir of the last duke, and widow of Henry lord Obrien. He resided at Cobham hall, and died possessed of the property in 1701, and by will bequeathed two thirds to the Lady Catherine his wife, and the other third to Mr. Joseph Hornsby, on the death of Lady Catherine Obrien. The following year two thirds of these manors, with the rest of the lands so purchased by Sir Joseph, in this parish, descended to Edward lord Clifton, and Cornbury, son of Edward lord Cornbury, afterwards earls of Clarendon, and Catherine his wife, only daughter and heir of the Lady Catherine Stuart, above mentioned, by her first husband Henry lord Obrien, and on his death, without issue, in 1713, to his only surviving sister and heir, the Lady Theodosia Hyde, who soon afterwards carried her interest in this estate in marriage to John Bligh, who was created earl of Darnley.

The other third part of these manors and estates, on the decease of Mr. Joseph Hornsby, became vested in his widow, and after several vexatious litigations, were put up to sale before a master in chancery, when the earl entered into a contract for the purchase of the whole. He died in 1728, and was succeeded by his eldest son and heir, Edward, earl of Darnley, who, in compliance with a decree of the court, completed the above purchase, which had been left unfinished by his father. He died possessed of the entire fee of these manors and estates, in 1747, unmarried, and was succeeded by his brother John, earl of Darnley, who died in 1781, when his son the Right Hon. earl of Darnley became possessed of the manors of East and West Chalk, as above mentioned.

There was formerly a manor in this parish, called *Bekele*, and

afterwards *Beccles*, having constituted part of the vast possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, so incessantly referred to in this history, under the title of whose lands it was entered in Domesday record.

On the disgrace of that prelate it passed, with his other possessions, to the crown, when the manor of BEKELE came into the possession of the illustrious family of the Cobham's, in this county. John, the eldest son of John de Cobham, by his first wife, daughter of Warine Fitz-Benedict, died possessed of it in the 28th of Edward I. His grandson John, son of Henry de Cobham, in the 17th of Edward III., obtained a charter of *free warren* within all his demesne lands in this manor, among others, and died possessed of it in the 36th year of that reign, as did his son John de Cobham, lord Cobham, in the 9th of Henry IV. without issue male, after which it descended down in like manner as Cobham, and the rest of the estates of this great family, by a female heir, in marriage to Sir Thomas Brooke, of Somersetshire, who was in her right Lord Cobham. His descendant, Henry Brooke lord Cobham, being attainted in the reign of James I., forfeited this manor to the crown, from which time we find no mention of this estate, nor has the name been known in this parish for many years, so that in all probability coming to the crown, with the manors of East and West Chalk, it became blended with them, and was included in the grant made of the same to Lodowick, duke of Lenox, in the 10th year of that reign, and has descended in the same line of ownership to the present possessor, the earl of Darnley.

RAYNEHURST and TYMBERWOOD are two manors in this parish, which, with two estates herein, called Felborough and Clamlane, were part of the revenues of the family of the Cobham's. Henry de Cobham, of Cobham, held them, as appears by Kirkby's Inquest, in the 9th of King Edward I.; as did John de Cobham, in the 36th of Edward III.; and in that family and its descendants they continued till the reign of Henry VI., at which period they are mentioned, in an old survey of Chalk, as having been in the possession of one Brent, where they continued till the 8th of Henry VII., when John Brent, esq. conveyed them, as appears by a fine levied in that year, to Sir Henry Wyatt. His son, Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Allington castle, in the 32d of Henry VIII., granted the manors

of Raynhurst and Tymberwood, with all his other lands and possessions in this parish, to the king, in exchange for other premises. After that period, the fee-simple of these manors and estates, for there had been several terms of them granted to different persons, remained vested in the crown; and Sir Peter Manwood, in the reign of Elizabeth, became possessed of the then subsisting term of the manor of Tymberwood, with the estates of Clamlane and Felborough, who passed away his interest therein to Mendfield, who alienated it to Mr. James Crispe. The fee simple, however, of this property, together with that of the manor of Raynhurst, still remained in the crown till Charles I., in 1630, passed it to the city of London, whence it was conveyed by sale, that year, to Mr. James Crispe, who devised these manors and estates by will to his two sons, Thomas and James Crispe.

The manors of Raynhurst and Tymberwood, with Clamlane and Felborough, passed afterwards into the possession of Francis Cottington, esq. of Fonthill abbey, in Wiltshire, son of Francis, and grandson of Maurice Cottington, brother of Francis lord Cottington, sons of Philip Cottington, of Godmanston, in Somersetshire. Lord Cottington dying without issue, his nephew, Francis, became his heir; that family bearing for its arms, *Azure, a fess between three roses, or.* He died possessed of them in 1728, as did his son, Francis Cottington, esq., in 1760, on whose death they were alienated to Mr. John Jenkinson, who sold the estates of Clam lane and Felborough to Robert Maxwell, earl of Farnham; and he died possessed of them in 1779, without issue male, leaving an only daughter, Lady Harriet Maxwell. She, the following year, carried these estates in marriage to Dennis Daly, esq. of Ireland; but the manor of Raynhurst was sold to one Brown, whose widow, Mrs. Sarah Brown, was afterwards owner of this estate. The manor of Tymberwood was alienated to Mr. Day, whose descendant, Mr. David Day, inherited the same.

CHALK is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, appears to be of the highest antiquity, and consists of two aisles and two chancels, with a square tower at the west end, in which are three bells. The porch is remarkable for its strange and whimsical ornaments, a taste which often

occurs in Gothic architecture, as may be seen in many of the ancient ecclesiastical buildings in various parts of the kingdom. These singularly grotesque sculptures convey little meaning or design, and appear to have been merely the effects of caprice and the fantastical humour of the architects; in this instance, however, the artist has indulged his sportive fancy in a manner much too loose and absurd for a sacred building. On the crown of the arch, at the entrance, is the figure of a man in the character of a jolly tipling fellow, holding a jug with both hands, and looking up, with a most expressive laughing countenance, to a grotesque figure in the attitude of a posture master or tumbler. Between these figures, in a niche or recess, ornamented with a neat painted Gothic arch and roses, formerly stood the image of the Virgin. The impropriety of its being placed between two such ludicrous figures, we should imagine, could not escape observation, and of course excite disgust in the congregation, who, as good Catholics, usually made their reverence, when they approached the edifice.

It has been conjectured that the figures above described were placed there to commemorate a *Give Ale*, bequeathed by one William May, of this parish, in 1512. The personage in question directed that "his wife make every year, for his soull, an *obit*, and make in bread six bushells of wheat; and in drink, ten bushells of mault; and in cheese, twenty pence; to give to the poor people, for the health of his soull: and that after the decease of his wife, his executors and feoffers should continue the *obit* before rehearsed, for evermore."

Among other monuments in this church, is one for Henry Roy, vicar of Chalke; and another for Edward Dering and Elizabeth his wife, obt. 1698. In the nave is a brass plate for William Martyn, obt. 1416, and Isabella his wife; the former was a great benefactor to this church, as appeared in Weever's time, as well in the glass of the windows as in other parts of this structure.

The church of Chalk anciently belonged to the Benedictine priory of Norwich, and in the 15th of Edward I. was valued at thirty marks.

The king is patron of this vicarage, which was a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly certified value of £40, the annual tenths of which were 12s. 4½d.

In 1821, there were eighty-two dwellings in the parish of Chalk; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 206, females 218, making a total of 424 souls.

Northward from Chalk lies DENTON, called, in the *Textus Roffensis*, DENITUNE, and in Domesday record *Danitune*, which name it is supposed to have acquired from having been the habitation of the Danes, that is, *Dane town*. It is now usually called Lower Denton, from its low situation near the marshes, and also Denton, near Gravesend, to distinguish it from Denton, near Eleham, in this county.

This parish lies on the east side of the road leading from Chalk street to Gravesend, and is distant from that place about one mile. The extent from north to south is less than two miles, and in breadth only half a mile. It contains about 430 acres of land, whereof 100 are marshes, and its contiguity to the same render it very unhealthy. The surface is extremely flat, the soil a good fertile mould towards the north, and light and chalky to the south; there were formerly but two houses in this parish, one of which was the court lodge and the parsonage, built by Mr. Nicholas Gilbee.

It was given while Elffstan was bishop of Rochester, who came to that see in 945, to the priory of St. Andrew's, Rochester, as two plough lands, by one Birtrick, of Meopham, with the consent of Elfswithe, his wife. Being wrested from that church soon afterwards, in consequence of the Danish wars, it was ultimately seized on by King Harold; and on the accession of William the Conqueror, was by him given to Odo bishop of Bayeux; but Archbishop Lanfranc recovered it again in 1076, and restored it to Bishop Gundulph and the church of St. Andrew's; which gift was subsequently confirmed by Archbishop Anselm and several of his successors.

On the dissolution of the priory of Rochester, in the 32d of Henry VIII., this manor was surrendered to the king, who settled it on his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester; in whom this inheritance has continued.

No court has been held for this manor for many years past.

Gilbert de Tunbridge, son of Richard, about the year 1100,

restored to the monks of St. Andrew, in Rochester, their lands, which were within his lowy of Tunbridge, viz. Unfringeberi, near Burne, which belonged to Frendesbury; and Dudichinesdene, which lay at Denton; both manors belonging to them, to hold the same freely and quietly, for ever.

This parish was anciently contributary to the repairs of the ninth pier of Rochester bridge.

DENTON is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, was but a small building, containing one aisle, with a chancel and bell tower. It stood on a bank, close to the road side, the whole having been for a considerable time in ruins, though it was not in that state at the period when Kilburn wrote, that is to say, in the middle of the 17th century. Soon after that date, service having been discontinued therein, the materials were taken down and sold, or otherwise disposed of. The exterior walls, for the most part, remain, having the buildings of the adjoining farm-yard built up against the north side of the edifice. On the south-east human bones have at times been dug up, as in that direction was the cemetery, which spot was converted into the farm-yard.

On the abolition of deans and chapters, after the death of Charles I., a survey was taken, in 1650, of this parsonage, by order of the state, when it was returned, that Denton was a small parish, containing only two houses, and but one farm near it; that it was a parsonage impropriate, belonging to the late bishop of Rochester, worth £26 per annum; in which state it remained, the parsonage continuing part of the possessions of the bishop of Rochester.

In the last census of the population, taken in 1821, the returns of Denton parish are included in the foregoing parish of Chalk.

Eastward from Denton lies MERSTON, written in the *Textus Roffensis*, MERESTUNE. This place derives its name from its situation, being flat and low, and the soil naturally marshy. It has now become so obscure, as scarcely to be known as a parish.

This district is esteemed as part of the parish of Shorne, in regard to its civil jurisdiction, though, as in reference to its

ecclesiastical state, it still continues a separate parish. It has been assessed as part of Shorne, to the maintenance of the poor there, from the time of Queen Elizabeth, as appears by the parish books. It lies at a small distance from the high London road, at Gadshill, in the flat vale below it, and contains only 150 acres of land, the soil of which is very fertile. As early as the reign of Henry VI., this little parish seems to have been entirely destitute of inhabitants. The state of it at the latter end of the last century (and we believe it continues much the same,) may be seen from the following description, taken mostly from the register of the bishops of Rochester.

The parish of Merston contains about 150 acres, and bounds the parish of Shorne on three sides, and that of Higham on the fourth. The place where the church once stood is now a wood, containing four or five acres, called Chapel wood, belonging to Green farm, situated almost in a direct line between the churches of Shorne and Higham, and not far westward from Shorne green. Within this wood is a deep ditch or intrenchment, which appears to have been anciently a fortification; it is a square, containing about three acres, the sides whereof lie according to the cardinal points of the compass. Within are many risings and inequalities, which might probably have been the foundations of buildings. At the eastern part, about fifteen paces from the church, some ruins are still remaining, by which it appears to have been fifteen paces long, and seven broad; and about ten rods southward from the west end of this site is a very deep draw-well. There is now no path or way remaining to this place, excepting over the ploughed or pasture grounds.

MERSTON, otherwise GREEN MANOR, was, in the reign of Henry III., the property of John de Banstede; but in that of Edward I., it was possessed by Robert de Sancto Claro, or St. Clere, who held it as one knight's fee of Warine de Montchensie.

In the reign of Edward III., the manor of Merston was the estate of Sir Hugh Fitzsymond, who, in the 20th year of that reign, paid respective aid for it as one knight's fee, which Robert de St. Clere held here of Warine de Montchensie. After that family became extinct, this manor devolved to the name of Smith, in which it remained till the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII., when it was alienated to John Jorden, who conveyed it by sale to Anthony Tuitysham, esq., and he

sold it in that reign to George Brooke, lord Cobham. His grandson, Sir John Brooke, afterwards possessed it, and alienated the same to James Stuart, duke of Richmond, who died possessed of it in 1655; in whose family it continued down to Charles duke of Richmond, who died possessed of it in 1672, without issue, leaving Catherine, his only sister, his next heir. She married, as previously mentioned, Henry lord Obrien, soon after which, in 1695, this, among the rest of the late duke of Richmond's estates, was sold to pay his debts; at which period this estate had lost even the reputation of being a manor, and was generally known by the name of Green Farm. It was purchased by Sir Joseph Williamson, since which it has passed in the same succession of owners as Cobham hall, to the Right Hon. the Earl of Darnley.

MERSTON is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and being a *peculiar* of the archbishop, is as such in the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church, dedicated to St. Giles, was formerly esteemed but as a chapel to the church of Shorne, as appears from the *Textus Roffensis.*

It has, as previously mentioned, been long in ruins. In 1455, there were no inhabitants remaining here, and as it was probable the church would in future continue without parishioners, and the income of this benefice being worth no more than thirty shillings, *Coibs annis*, which was not a sufficient maintenance for any chaplain, John, then bishop of Rochester, granted his licence to John Hedon, chaplain, rector of this church, that he for the future should not be obliged to reside or exercise the cure of souls here till parishioners should resort thither to dwell. However, as the church was then standing, the bishop enjoined that he, or some one for him, should celebrate mass and other divine offices annually therein, on the feast of St. Giles, confessor and abbot; and in the mean time, that he should cause it to be decently repaired. It was valued in the king's books at £2 13 4, the yearly tenths being 5s. 4d.

The patronage of this rectory has been for many years vested in the crown.

In the last census of the population, taken in 1821, the parishes of Merston and Shorne are returned together, the number of dwellings being 115, males 423, females 353, making a total of 776 souls.

The parish of Shorne, called, in the *Textus Roffensis*, Scorene, and in other ancient records *Sones* and *Schornes*, is about three miles in extent either way. The high road from London to Rochester runs through it; westward of which are the hamlets of Lower Shorne and Shorne green, where the ground is low and flat. Southward of the road it rises up to the village of Shorne, through orchards and small enclosures of elm trees; the church stands in the centre, and at a quarter of a mile distant, northward, is a good house, which was for some generations the property and residence of the family of the Maplesden's, several of whom lie buried in this church, having borne for their arms, *Sable, a cross fermee fitchee*, as appears by the visitation of this county in 1619, in which there is a pedigree of this family, settled at different times here and at Rochester, Horsemonden, and Maidstone. The last of that line, Jarvis Maplesden, esq., died here, leaving his widow and four daughters; and Mrs. Maplesden afterwards possessed this estate. There is also another house in this village, built by Mrs. Jane Ayerst, widow of Dr. William Ayerst, prebend of Canterbury, who died in 1777, and by her will gave it to her only surviving son, the Rev. Robert Gunsley Ayerst.

Westward of the village are the hamlets of Shorne, Ifield, and Thony; between which there is much rough ground or heath, and at a little distance southward the manor of Randall. About half a mile eastward from the church is the hamlet of Shorne Ridgway; northeastward from which is much hilly ground and coppice wood, extending to both sides of the London road. There are still more on the southern sides of this parish, reaching to the bounds adjoining the old Roman road leading from Shinglewell, by Cobham-park pales, to Rochester. The soil of this parish is in general a fertile loam, which becomes more so as it extends northward, nearer to the marshes, where is chiefly a smooth plain surface. The air of this parish is not esteemed very healthy, in consequence of its exposure and contiguity to the large tract of marshes adjoining the Thames.

The environs of Shorne are particularly interesting, on account of their varied and picturesque beauties; there are also very pleasing walks between Shorne and the Half-way or Beaf-steak house on the high road. Two stations have been selected as very charming points of view: a summer-house, in a field, on

the south-east, and a tree, furnished with a seat, in a field on the opposite side of the road to Cobham, near the path to Shorne mill. *Shorne Mead Battery*, in this parish, may be inspected by pursuing a different route from Milton, that is to say, along the sea bank, which at high water affords a most enchanting walk. The battery in question, mounting four twenty-four pounders, was erected in 1796, for the better defence of the river, and much resembles another raised at Lower Hope Point.

In the 14th of Henry II. part of this parish was the king's demesne, for which, in the aid then collected, the sheriff paid into the exchequer the sum of 36s. 8d., and, in the 33d of that reign, £4 were assessed for gross tallage. At the latter end of that reign, Jordanus de Nevile held one knight's fee in Sornes, of Walter Fitzhelt, who held the same again of the king *in capite*. John de Nevile succeeded him in the possession of this place, and by his deed, still preserved in the Surrenden library, released and granted to Henry Cobeham, for homage and service, eighteen shillings rent in the meadow of Bolcham, which he held of him and his ancestors, as belonging to his manor of Sornes, to which deed there is the seal of John Nevile appendant, being a shield with a *chief indented*. He passed away Shorne manor by deed of gift to Roger de Northwood, who was possessed of it in the 30th of Henry III., as appears by the pipe roll of that year. He died owner of this estate in the 13th of Edward I., holding it of the king *in capite*, by the service of one knight's fee. His son, Sir John de Northwood, in the 21st of that reign, claimed, and was allowed *free warren*, and the usual privileges of a manor here, at which time the king brought a writ of right, and claimed this manor, but the jury decided it against him. After this he claimed of Sir John four marks and four pence annual rent, but the jury decided that also against him, finding that the rent belonged to the manor. This Sir John Northwood changed the tenure of his lands from gavelkind to knight's service, and afterwards, together with his son and grandson, accompanied that monarch in his victorious expedition into Scotland, and was several times sheriff for this county, having been summoned to Parliament among the barons of the realm. He died shortly after possessed of this manor.

He was succeeded by his grandson, Roger de Northwood,

who died in the 34th of Edward III. possessed of this manor, held of the king *in capite*, by the service of carrying, together with others, the king's tenants, a certain white standard towards Scotland, in the wars of the king, for forty days, at his own expense.

This tenure was customary, not only in England, but elsewhere; for Selden, in his Titles of Honor observes, out of Prelucius's Discourses upon the State of Poland, that in 1530, Albert, marquis of Brandenburg, received his investiture by the delivery of a banner from the hands of Sigismund, king of Poland; and his brother George, on being inducted to that signiory, by this ceremony, in his own and his brother's name, had to place his hands upon the banner; and, when the above-mentioned banner was delivered to an heir whose title was not free from controversy, he was only admitted to touch the extreme parts of the same.

He left by his wife Julian, daughter and coheir of Sir Geoffry de Saye, Sir John Northwood his son and heir, but he never came to the possession of this manor, for Julian, his mother, held it in dower, and survived him. On her death, Roger de Northwood succeeded to this manor, of which he died possessed, leaving Agnes his wife surviving, who held it also as part of her dower; she subsequently married Christopher Shuckbrooke, and died possessed of it in the 6th of Henry IV.

After her death the property went by sale to Sir Arnold Savage, of Bobbing, who had been sheriff in the 5th and 9th years of Richard II., and speaker of the House of Commons in the 5th of Henry IV., as well as a privy counsellor. He died in the 12th year of the latter reign, possessed of this manor, which he held by the like service of carrying a standard, as above mentioned. His son, Arnold Savage, died without issue, leaving Eleanor, his sister, sole heir, who had married, first, Sir Reginald de Cobham, by whom she had no issue, and secondly William Clifford, esq., who in her right became entitled to the possession of this manor.

He was son of Sir Lewis Clifford, K.G., descended from the Clifford's, of Clifford's castle, in Herefordshire, and served the office of sheriff of this county in the 13th of Henry VI. His great grandson, Lewis Clifford, esq. passed it away by sale to Sir George Nevill, lord Abergavenny, who alienated it to George

Brooke, lord Cobham, in the reign of Henry VIII., and his grandson, Henry lord Cobham, being attainted, his estates became forfeited to the crown.

This manor of Shorne thus passing to the crown, King James granted the manor to Sir Robert Cecil, earl of Salisbury, who alienated it to Sir John Leveson, of Whorne's place, whose eldest son dying without issue male, was succeeded in this and his other estates by his brother, Sir Richard Leveson, K.B., of Trentham, in Staffordshire. He, in the reign of Charles I., sold the manor of Shorne to Mr. Alderman George Woodyer, of Satis, in Rochester, who bore for his arms, *Sable, three leopards' heads in fess, between nine fleurs de lis, argent,* whose descendant, William Woodyer, esq. of Shorne, died possessed of it in 1732, and by will devised it to Mr. John Taylor, his sister's son, who bore the same arms as those of Maidstone and Shadoxhurst. He conveyed the property by sale, in 1752, to Thomas Gordon, esq. of Rochester, whose sole daughter and heir carried it in marriage to her first cousin, William Gordon, esq. of Bully hill, in 1763, when the latter died possessed of this manor in 1776, leaving an only daughter and heir, and his widow, Elizabeth Gordon, surviving, who remained possessed of this estate.

There is a court-leet and court-baron held for this manor, the title of which is the *manor of Shorne, with the hundred of Shamel appendant to the same.*

RANDALL, formerly called ROUNDALL, and RUNDALE, is a manor in this parish, which, though at present of little repute, was anciently of some note, as having been one of the seats of the noble family of the Cobham's, where it is said they resided, previous to their removal to Cobham hall.

John de Cobham, lord of Cobham, possessed this manor in the reign of Henry III., who left by his first wife two sons, John, who was ancestor of the Cobham's, of Cobham, and of Belluncle, and Henry, to whom he gave this manor of Randall, who was commonly called le Uncle, to distinguish him from Henry de Cobham, of Cobham, son of his elder brother John.

He was several times sheriff of this county, and, in the reign of Edward I. was, with three others of his family, attendant on that king during his victorious expedition into Scotland. He died in the reign of Edward II., and lies buried in this church,

where his figure still remains on his tomb, armed in mail, and cross-legged. He married Joane, eldest of the two daughters and coheirs of Stephen de Pencestre, by whom he had a son Stephen de Cobham, who was of Randall; and, in the 34th of Edward I., when Prince Edward was knighted, with bathing and other sacred ceremonies, he, the said Stephen, received, with many others, the like honour.

Upon the death of Joane, his mother, in the 18th of Edward II., performing his fealty, he shared in the lands of her inheritance, and having been summoned to Parliament among the barons of this realm, died in the 6th of Edward III. possessed of the manor, with another called Okington, in this parish, leaving John his son, and Avice his wife, surviving, who held them for her life, and died in the 14th year of that reign, upon which John their son, before mentioned, became possessed of the manor of Roundale, with that of Okington. He dying in the 36th year of the same reign, was succeeded therein by Thomas de Cobham, his son, in whose descendants they remained till alienated to one Wyatt, in which name they continued till Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Alyngton, in the 32d of Henry VIII. sold, by way of exchange to that monarch, among other premises, the manors of Randall and Okington, with their rights, members, and appurtenances.

King Henry VIII., in his 37th year, in consideration of other premises, granted the manor of Randall to George lord Cobham, who purchased of Sir Anthony, in the 7th of Edward VI., the manor of Okington, to whom it had been granted by that prince, in his 4th year, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service. His grandson, Henry Brooke, lord Cobham, being found guilty of high treason, as frequently before mentioned, these among his other estates became forfeited to the crown; after which, the manor of Randall, with many other estates belonging to Lord Cobham, was granted by King James, in his 10th year, to his kinsman, Lodowick Stuart, duke of Lenox, afterwards created duke of Richmond. It then descended in like manner as that of Cobham, to James, duke of Richmond, who died at Elsineur, in Denmark, in 1672, without issue, leaving Katherine, his only sister, his next heir, married to Henry lord Obrien. Soon after her second marriage in 1695, all the estates of Charles, late duke of Richmond, in this county, were

sold, when this manor was purchased by Captain Robert Porten, who died possessed of it in 1711. He left this estate by will to Sarah Tanner, whose daughter carried it in marriage to Thomas Judd, when he alienated it to one Dunn, who sold it to a Stevenson, from whom it passed in like manner to Mr. Smith, who resided at Randall. After some few years he died there in 1752, intestate, upon which several claimants appeared, among whom was Mr. Henry Bennett, of West Smithfield, being the principal, and he, after the death of the others, became sole owner of this estate. He left Elizabeth his wife surviving, after whose death it became the property of Walter Mitchell, esq , who, about 1793, sold this manor to the Right Hon. the earl of Darnley, in which noble family the property still continues vested.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

SHORNE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The church, dedicated to Sts. Peter and Paul, contains a very curious font, composed of Bethersden marble; it is octangular, the eight compartments round the basin being decorated with sculptures, representing scriptural subjects. It is very similar to that in Southfleet church, and probably of the same age.

Among other monuments and memorials are the following: for Thomas Ellys, vicar of Shorne; William Pepyr, also vicar; and George Page. In the nave is a brass plate, and figure of a man, in memory of Joseph Smith, another for Edmund Page, a tomb for Eleanor Allen, and another for George Haysden, of Shorne, as well as a memento for Thomas Sharpe. *In the chancel, south of the rectory*, formerly belonging to the manor of Randall, (which, on the attainder of Henry lord Cobham, devolved to this parish, and has been repaired by the inhabitants at no small expense ever since,) in the north-east corner, on an altar monument raised about a foot from the ground, is the portraiture of Sir Henry de Cobham le Uncle, armed in chain mail, and cross-legged; and, on the margin of the stone, an inscription in French, in very ancient capital letters, for Sir Henry de Cobham, lord of Rundale; there is also a brass plate, being the memorial of John Herenden, gent., and another for Thomas, son of Edward Page, under date 1558. Eastward of the latter appears a stone, bearing these arms, *a tower with three turrets*,

and on each a fane impaling, on a fess, a lion passant guardant, between three cross crosslets, fitchee, for Eizad, wife of Captain Robert Porten, of the manor of Randall, obiit 1704. *In the chancel, north of the rectory*, on a brass plate, are the figures of a man and woman, representing John Smith, and Marian his wife; also a gravestone for Captain Jarvis Maplesden; and, in the churchyard, on the north side of the edifice, a large tombstone, which covers a vault, containing the family of the Baynard's.

On the west side of the road, opposite Mrs. Maplesden's house, are the ruins of an ancient structure, supposed to have been those of a chapel, or oratory, from a stone coffin and many human bones having been dug up in excavating a foundation for the contiguous building; no evidence, however, exists relative to what it may have been, or by whom founded.

The church of Shorne, with that of Cobham appendant, was given by Henry I., in his 33d year, to the monastery of St. Saviour's, at Bermondsey, which gift was confirmed by Walter, bishop of Rochester, who granted to the monks a parsonage in those churches, according license to the vicars serving yearly therein, who should answer to the bishop and his officials for the cure of souls. That appropriation was confirmed to them by Laurence bishop Becket, and the priory and convent of Rochester, in 1246 and 1270, in which year the prior and convent of Bermondsey acknowledged themselves to be bound to pay the bishop and his successors for the above churches, with that of Birling and Kemsing cum Seale added to them, as appears by the bishop's registers.

By an ancient valuation, taken in the 15th of Edward I., the church of Shorne was valued at thirty-six marks, and the vicarage at ten marks; and, in the 20th of Edward III., the estimate was the same.

This church remained with the priory till the dissolution, in the 29th of Henry VIII., when it was, together with the lands and possessions, surrendered to the king.

The church of Shorne remained vested in the crown, till the above monarch, in his 36th year, settled it on the dean and chapter of Rochester, in exchange for the manor of Southfleet, in this county, and on that account the original tenth, payable by the dean and chapter on their foundation, which was £115,

was altered, and Shorne parsonage being valued at £9 6s. per annum above, the estimate of Southfleet manor, that sum was added, and, in consequence, they now pay £125 6s.

This vicarage was valued in the king's books at £13 1 8, the yearly tenths being £1 6 2.

William Pepyr, vicar of this parish, who died in 1468, left by will to his successors the house in which he dwelt, on condition that they should not sue his executors for the repairs of the vicarage; and Thomas Page, of this parish, by will under date 1495, invested in the vicar and his trustees, his tenement, called Normans, in Upper Shorne, for a dwelling house for the vicar and his successors.

In the last census of the population, under date 1821, the population of Shorne is condensed with that of Merston previously described.

The parish of Frindsbury is called in ancient charters *Freandesbyri*, it was likewise called *Æslingham*, otherwise *Frindsbury*, from the manor so called in this parish.

This district joins the river Medway partly towards the south, and wholly eastward; it is near five miles from north to south, though not much more than half a mile in breadth, the surface being one continued hill and dale, on high ground, the soil varying, the hills mostly chalk, the dales a loamy earth, but towards Hoo abounding in stiff clay, and the major part fertile in corn lands. The village adjoins the town of Stroud, on the north side, appearing as part of the same, whence the ground rises very high to the summit of the hill upon which the church stands, on the opposite side of the river to the city of Rochester, forming a conspicuous object. At the north end of Frindsbury street the road branches off on the left to Cliff and Higham, and straight forward leads to the hundred of Hoo, whereon, distant about one mile, is Wainscott, and farther on Chattenden; and, at the north-west boundary, next to Cliff, the manor of Æslingham. The high London road runs along the southern part of this parish for nearly a mile westward, beyond the pond called St. Thomas's watering place, at a small distance from which, on the opposite side of the road, is a good mansion, built by Mr. David Day, who named it Little Hermitage. A quarter of a mile southward of the road, but nearer Stroud, is Read court,

Drawn by T. M. Baynes. Engraved by T. Garner.

UPNOR CASTLE, NEAR CHATHAM.

beyond which this parish extends to the hamlet called the three Crouches, where the three parishes of Frindsbury, Higham, and Cobham, meet.

The parish joins the river Medway from Stroud, along the shore, opposite to Chatham dock, where on the hill is a residence called the Quarry house, having a beautiful view over the river, town, dock-yard, and adjoining country, till it joins the parish of Hoo; about half a mile below Upnor castle, northward, between the river and the hill, are large quantities of salt marshes, overflowed at every high tide.

Upnor Castle is situated a small distance below Chatham dock, on the opposite shore. It is a stone building, and was erected by Queen Elizabeth, in her 3d year, for the defence of the river; but for many years past there has not been a gun mounted therein for service, neither is there any platform.

The castle contains a magazine of powder for the use of the navy, and, to ensure its safety, there is an establishment of a governor, storekeeper, clerk of the cheque, master gunner, and twelve other subordinates. There is also an officer's guard of soldiers, or detachment, which, with the rest of the forts on this river, excepting Sheerness, is under the command of the governor of Upnor castle. One of these is a fort once called *the Swamp*, now the *Bird's Nest*, but no guns have been mounted there for a considerable period, the embrasures having been long mouldered away. Another *fort*, called *Cockham wood*, about a mile below, on the same side the Medway, may yet be seen, but all the guns are dismounted, and scattered on the ground. The gift of the master gunner's place, usually held by some invalid, is in the disposal of the master general of the ordnance.

Hooness fort, generally called *the Folly*, is situated still lower down, on the same side of the river, where there are no guns mounted; but there is a master gunner from Upnor castle, who resides there for a week at a time, a boat being allowed for the transporting each gunner, and his provisions, weekly from Upnor castle, for the service of the navy.

The south tower of Upnor castle is allowed the governor for his residence, but, on account of its dilapidated state, it is never inhabited. Near the castle are some good barracks, wherein the gunners, soldiers, and officer commanding on the spot, are well accommodated.

In the reign of Edward I., in consequence of a long drought, the monks of Rochester set out in procession to Frindsbury, in order to pray for rain; but the day appointed proving very windy, they were fearful their lights would be extinguished, their banners tossed about, and their order much discomposed, wherefore they desired leave of the master of Stroud hospital to pass through the orchard of his house, who, thinking it of no consequence, acquiesced, without the consent of his brethren. They understanding this, and recollecting that the hospital was the foundation of Gilbert, bishop of Rochester, whom the monks' predecessors had resisted in the erection of the same, fearing the latter would attempt an injury to their privileges, hired a company armed with clubs, &c. to waylay them in the orchard, where they assaulted the monks, and put them to flight. After that event, although the fraternity desisted from going that way, they nevertheless compelled the men of Frindsbury to appear yearly on Whit Monday, in procession, with their clubs, to Rochester, as a penance for their crime. Hence was derived the name of Frindsbury clubs, and most probably the custom which the boys of Rochester and Stroud had of meeting on May day annually, on Rochester bridge, with clubs, and there skirmishing with each other.

Frindsbury, with its appendages, Æslingham, Bromheye, Chatindone, Thornden, &c. was given to the church of Rochester by the several reigning kings during the Saxon heptarchy, between the years 764 and 789, of whom, Offa king of the Mercians, was the chief benefactor, that prince giving twenty plough lands lying in Æslingham, by which name this parish seems at that time to have been described.

These estates were wrested from the church of Rochester during the danish wars; after which they devolved to Harold, and on the accession of the Conqueror, were by him given to Odo bishop of Bayeux. Archbishop Lanfranc, however, recovered them in the solemn assembly held at Penenden heath, in 1076, and restored the whole to Bishop Gundulph; which gift was confirmed by several succeeding archbishops of Canterbury.

Gundulph having, after the example of Archbishop Lanfranc, divided the revenues of his church between himself and the convent, allotted the manor of Frindsbury to the monks; to

whom it was confirmed by Henry I., King Stephen, and Henry II.

When Bishop Gilbert de Glanvells came to the see of Rochester, in 1185, he claimed this manor, among other premises, given to them by Gundulph, as belonging to the maintenance of his table; to which the monks were at length compelled to submit. In consequence of this, although he wrested the advowson of the church of Frindsbury from the fraternity, they, nevertheless, continued in possession of the manor till the dissolution of the priory, under Henry VIII.

In the 7th of Edward I., the bishop of Rochester claimed certain liberties, by the grant of Henry I., in all his lands and fees, and others, by ancient custom, in the lands of the priory in Frindesberi, as well as in all other lands belonging to the church; the whole of which were then allowed him by a jury.

In the 21st year of the same reign, on a *quo warranto*, the prior of Rochester claimed that he and his predecessors had, in the manor of Frindsbury, view of frankpledge, and all matters belonging thereto, from beyond memory, and that those liberties had been used without interruption, all which were allowed by the jury.

King Edward I., by his charter, in his 23d year, granted to the prior and convent of Rochester, *free warren* in all their demesne lands of this manor.

On the dissolution of the priory of Rochester under Henry VIII., the manor of Frindsbury, and its appendages, were surrendered to the king, who soon after settled them on his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester, in whom this inheritance has continued.

The manor of Æslingham becoming part of the possessions of the church of Rochester, as before mentioned, was afterwards given by Bishop Gundulph to Godfrey Talbot, but he reserved the whole tithes for the use of his monks; subsequent to which, this manor passed into the family of the St. Clere's.

In the reign of Edward I., John de St. Clere held this manor as one knight's fee, of the bishop of Rochester; after which, William de Brampton and Alicia Eselyngham possessed it, and their heirs paid respective aid for the same, as one knight's fee, in the 20th of Edward III.

William de Halden died possessed of this manor in the 51st year of that reign; after which it passed into the family of the Neals's, who had good estates about Higham; and thence into that of the Rykeld's, or Rikhill, as that name was afterwards spelt. One of the latter, John Rikhill, was sheriff of Æslingham in the reign of Henry VI., having borne for his arms, *gules, two bars, argent, between three annulets, or.* His descendant, Thomas Rikhill, alienated the estate to R. Frogenhall, whose heir passed it away by sale to Audley and Fisher, and they sold it to Sir Thomas Cromwell, afterwards Lord Cromwell, of Okeham, in Rutlandshire. He was the son of a blacksmith, at Putney, in Surrey, and had been a common soldier, under the duke of Bourbon, at the sacking of Rome. On his return, he entered the service of Cardinal Wolsey, to whom he proved so acceptable for his dexterous management of particular matters in which the cardinal was then engaged, that he raised him from obscurity, and paved the way for his attainment of the high offices he afterwards enjoyed under Henry VIII. In the 31st year of that prince, he procured the disgavelment of his lands in this county, and was advanced to the dignity of earl of Essex, and soon after constituted knight of the Garter, and lord high chancellor of England. But falling under the displeasure of the king, he was arrested for high treason, condemned unheard and almost unpitied, when he was beheaded on Tower hill.

On his attainder, the manor of Æslingham devolved to the crown, at which time it consisted of the mansion and buildings, with the demesne lands, a fishery on the river Medway, and the rectory of Æslingham; the fee of which thus continued till Queen Elizabeth granted it to Sir William Drury, of Norfolk. One of his descendants, in the reign of Charles I., alienated this property to Henry Clerke, esq., sergeant at law, and recorder of Rochester, whose descendant, Gilbert Clerk, esq. of Derbyshire, alienated it to Mr. Thomas Best, of Chatham; and his son, Mawdistley Best, esq., died possessed of it in 1744. He by will devised this manor to his second son, Mr. James Best, of Chatham, who died in 1782, and his eldest son, Thomas Best, esq. of Boxley, afterwards possessed the property.

The estate called Bromhey, or Bromgebey, was given to the

church of Rochester in the time of the Saxon heptarchy, having been the gift of Egeberht king of Kent, in 778 and 779; which was afterwards confirmed by Offa king of Mercia. It was then said to be situated within the limits of the castle called Hrofeeaester, having, on the east, Wuodafleet, and on the north, a marsh called Scaga, which the water of Jaenlade surrounded. This estate seems afterwards to have been divided, when part remained, as appears by different records, in the possession of the bishop of Rochester; as Richard de Greenstreet, in consideration of one mark stirling, granted to Thomas bishop of Rochester and his successors, certain lands in the manor of Bromhie, adjoining to the bishop's barn there; and in 1337, Bishop Hamo de Heth repaired, at great expense, his grange at Brumbege.

Another part of this estate was granted to the family of the Cobham's, of Cobham, in this neighbourhood, by the bishop of Rochester, to hold of him and his successors; and a third part remained in the possession of the prior and convent of Rochester, as appears by the Book of Aid, taken in the 20th of Edward III., at which time Sir John de Cobham and the prior of Rochester held half a knight's fee in Bromhege.

Sir John de Cobham held his part of the bishop of Rochester, as before mentioned; and his descendant, John lord Cobham, died holding it by the name of the manor of Bromhie, in the 9th of Henry IV.; and from that period, we imagine, this estate, which has for many years lost its ancient name, has passed, in like manner as Cobham hall, to the Right Hon. the earl of Darnley.

It appears, from the *Textus Roffensis*, that there was once a chapel at this place; for bishop Thomas de Waldham by his will, in 1316, bequeathed to the poor of this chapel of Bromhie, eight marks.

Chattenden is an estate in this parish, once accounted an appendage to the manor of Frindsbury, and as such, was given to the church of Rochester in the time of the Saxon heptarchy. It remained part of the possessions of the priory on its dissolution, under Henry VIII., when being surrendered to that king, he granted the manor of Chattenden to Sir George Brooke, lord Cobham; after which it descended, in the same manner as Cobham hall, to the earl of Darnley.

William de Hoo, prior of St. Andrew's, Rochester, having for two years endured much persecution, for not consenting to alienate the wood of Chetindone, changed his habit, and died a monk, at Woborne. Luke de Hores, with the consent of his heirs, granted to the priory and convent of Rochester, for the increase of their manor of Frindsbury, land at Chetingdune, called the land of Eilric Bishop. In exchange for which, they granted to him four acres of meadow in Stodbroc, adjoining in length against the ditch of Stroud hospital.

GODDINGTON, otherwise *Waltons,* is an estate lying partly in this parish and Stroud, which, as appears by the escheat rolls, was once reputed a manor. In the 20th of King Edward III., Simon de Godyngton paid aid for this estate as half a knight's fee, which Alan de Godyngton had before held in Frindsbury and Stroud, of Jeffrey de Scoland, and he of the earl of Leicester. This estate appears afterwards to have been divided, part of it, comprehending the manor and a portion of the demesne lands lying in the parish of Stroud, fell into the possession of the priory of Rochester; and the other part, including the mansion, with a portion of the demesne lands situated near Frindsbury church, afterwards went to the family of the Charles's, one of whom, Robert Charles, had been possessed of land about Hilden, in Tunbridge, and was bailiff of the forest there to Robert de Clare, earl of Gloucester, in the reign of Edward I. In that name it continued down to Richard Charles, of Addington, who dying without male issue in the 11th of Richard II., his two daughters, Alice, wife of William Snaith, descended from William de Snaith, chancellor of the Exchequer in the reign of Edward III.; and Joane, wife of Richard Ormeskirk, became his coheirs.

On the division of their inheritance, this estate became the property of William Snaith, who in right of his wife possessed Addington, and was sheriff in the 9th of Henry IV. He died possessed of the property in 1409, leaving Alice his sole daughter and heir, who married Robert Watton, esq., and he resided at Addington in her right. His descendants continued in possession of Goddington, holding it of the king, as of his duchy of Lancaster, by knight's service, till William Watton, esq. of Addington, in the reign of Charles II., alienated it to Francis Burnell, esq., sergeant at law, and recorder of the city of

Rochester. He bore for his arms, *Ermine on a chief, sable, three talbots' heads erased, of the field.*

He was elected to serve in Parliament for the city of Rochester in the 31st of Charles II., and dying in 1679, was interred in Rochester cathedral. By his wife, Anne Somer, who died in 1707, he left three sons, Francis, his heir; Henry, chapter clerk to the dean and chapter of Rochester; and Edmund, prebend of Rochester, who died in 1765.

Francis Barrell, esq. was of Rochester, which city he represented in the last Parliament under King William. He died in 1724, leaving by Anne Kitchell his wife, who died before him in 1717, one son and heir, Francis, and four daughters.

Francis Barrell, esq., the son, left two surviving daughters; and by a third wife, one son, Francis, who died before him, in 1755, ætat. seventeen, so that his two daughters by his first wife became his coheirs.

But this estate of Goddington, however, was devised, by the will of Mr. Sergeant Barrell, who died in 1679, to his second son, Mr. Henry Barrell, who, dying unmarried in 1754, gave it by will to his nephew, Francis Barrell, esq., for his life, with remainder to his niece, Catherine, wife of Josiah Marshall, esq., and her heirs, for ever. Her eldest son, the Rev. Edmund Marshall, vicar of Charing, sold it, in 1780, to Mr. Thomas Ayres, who rebuilt the house, and dying in 1796, gave it by will to Mary Anne Hopkins, who sold it to George Gunning, and he afterwards possessed the same.

The manor of Wainscot, otherwise *Parlabiens Yoke*, was anciently the estate of a family of the name of Purlabien, which, in the reign of Edward II., had possessions here and at Kedbrook, by Charlton, in this county. Soon after that period, it passed to the Colepeper's, of Aylesford; in which family it continued till Sir Thomas Colepeper, in the reign of Elizabeth, alienated it to Edward Randolph, whose heir sold it to Somers, of St. Margaret's, Rochester. He was descended from William Somer, chancellor of the Exchequer in the reign of Henry VI., and possessed much land in the hundred of Hoo. They bore for their arms, *Vert, a dancette ermine.*

His son, in the reign of Charles I., alienated the estate to Mr. Robinson, of Rochester, whence it passed by sale to Mr. Henry Golding, of Upper Halling, whose heirs sold this manor

to Francis Brooke, esq. of Town Malling, who died in 1782. He gave it by will to his nephew, Joseph Brooke, esq. of Town Malling, and he sold it to the Rev. Edward Holme, as he did to Mr. John Boghurst. There is a court-leet and court-baron held for this manor.

An estate once existed in this parish called THORNDEN, or *Thornindune*, which was held of the manor of Frindsbury by the wife of Lord Latimer.

The monks of St. Andrew claimed the reversion of that estate at her death, but she affirmed that the inheritance belonged to her kindred. Before her demise, however, she gave it up, with all she had upon the land, to the monks, to be possessed by them for ever, placing, at the same time, the original grant of the property from bishop Gundulph on the altar of St. Andrew's; for which the monks gave her sixty shillings, and promised her, besides, food and clothing so long as she should live; food from the cellarer as much as for one monk, and one dish of flesh four days in the week; and clothing from the chamberlain, honourable, and such as became her age and person. Also to any man and maid servant, who attended her, such food as the rest of the servants of the church had; and further, they gave her twenty shillings, yearly, to pay their wages and clothe them, and procure other necessaries for herself; and when she died, the convent agreed that they would bury her, and keep her anniversary.

FRINDSBURY is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. At the time when Gundulph came to the see of Rochester, A.D. 1075, there was no church here, but not long after, one was erected of stone by Paulinius, sacrist of the church of Rochester, who ornamented it with books, vestments, &c.

The present church of Frindsbury, which, however, bears no marks of any great antiquity, is dedicated to All Saints, and consists of two aisles and once chancel, with a spire steeple at the west end, in which is a peal of five bells. Richard Young, bishop of Rochester, in the reign of Henry V., caused several windows to be made in this church; and when Lambarde wrote his Perambulation, the picture of that prelate was still remaining in one of the windows. The font is a curious specimen of Gothic architecture.

Among other monuments and inscriptions in this church are the following: in the chancel, on the north wall, a memento for William Watson, gent. and Rose his wife, over which are the arms of Watson. A memorial, bearing *Sable, an eagle displayed, or, on a chief, azure, bordered argent, a chevron between two crescents above, and a rose below, or,* for Robert Mynors, esq., governor of Upnor castle, obt. 1694. In the nave are tombs for the Fowler's; the Couchman's; the Kidwell's; the Granger's; the Almond's; the Nash's; and others. In the south aisle is a monument, having for armorial bearings, *Azure, a dolphin imbomed, argent naiant, argent between three escalop shells, or,* for Henry Needler, gent., obt. 1661; another for Robert Oliver, gent., obt. 1666; and on the west wall, a monument for Thomas Butler, who served Queen Elizabeth in England, France, and Spain, A.D. 1621, with tombs for Dennis his wife, under date 1607, and Margaret, whom he also espoused, A. D. 1617.

In the 33d of Edward III., the church, with the chapel of Stroud, was taxed at sixty marks, and in a subsequent valuation, the church of Frindsbury was estimated at 100 marks. In the valuation of church livings, taken A.D. 1650, it was returned that here was a vicarage, worth £40 per annum, but then sequestered; and also one chapel, which belonged to the manor of Islingham, anciently endowed with the tithes of eight score acres of land, which paid only to the parson of the parish, yearly, three cops of wheat, three cops of barley, and three of oats; and to the minister, 13s. 4d. per annum, the said chapel being then employed as a barn. This vicarage was valued in the king's books at £10 3 11½, the yearly tenths being £1 0 4½.

The parsonage of Frindsbury, and advowson of the vicarage, continued part of the possessions of the bishopric of Rochester. The vicarage house is situated at an inconvenient distance from the church, the situation being far from healthy; and to the living are annexed fifteen acres of glebe land. The register did not commence till 1669.

The family of the Watson's were lessees of this parsonage many years, and bore for their arms, *Barry of six argent and gules, three crescents ermine on a chief of the second, two tilt spears, their heads broken off in saltier, or.* William, son of John Watson, of River hall, in Essex, settled in this parish

in the reign of Elizabeth, and his descendants continued here afterwards for more than a century.

Gotceline de Haenherste became a monk in the priory of St. Andrew's, Rochester, and gave to that fraternity half the tithe of his land there and in Frindsbury. This portion of tithes is commonly called *Goldeclus portion,* which arises out of certain fields in the parishes of Frindsbury and Stroud. In 1650, these tithes were valued at 10s., the yearly reserved rent being 2s.

In 1821 there were 279 dwellings in the parish of Frindsbury; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow : males 776, females 786, making a total of 1562 souls.

Cobham, a small part of this parish lies within the hundred of Hoo. It is rather an unfrequented district, without any roads for traffic ; the air is healthy, and the situation rather pleasant, though the woods and foliage of Cobham park convey a sombre appearance. It extends nearly two miles and a half from north to south, and comprises about 2950 acres of land; Cobham park, with the mansion of Cobham hall, is situated in a vale within the same, containing the greatest part of this parish. The soil is various, strong good mould, chalk, and some gravel, and is in general accounted excellent wheat land. The village is situated on high ground, in the south-west part of the parish, containing the church, from which there is a most extensive view southwestward over the country. Adjoining the churchyard is Cobham college, and at the west end of the street the parsonage. At a small distance farther, is the estate of Outlets; and at the western boundary of the parish, the manor of Henhurst. Cobham mount is about a quarter of a mile distant from the Shinglewell road, which runs along the northern side of this parish, by the park palings ; the north-east parts, adjoining Cobham park, formerly called the outpark grounds, are covered with coppice woods.

The ancient Roman road, or Watling-street way, is plainly discernible from Shinglewell, hither in the route to Rochester, with the hedges standing thereon. It runs to Cobham park, where the pales equally appear to belong to this road for some length of way ; soon after which it leaves them, as may be seen,

Drawn by Campion. Engraved by J. Rogers

COBHAM HALL.

KENT

THE SEAT OF EARL DARNLEY

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in the passage out of the north gate of the park, where the route crosses the same, and thence runs into a thick wood, where all traces are lost. At the north-west boundary of this parish, adjoining the above road, is a piece of water, called St. Thomas's well, probably from the use made of it by St. Thomas Becket, in his journeys through this place.

In 1362 John lord Cobham built and endowed a *college* in this parish, for a master and chaplains, in order that prayers might be offered up for the souls of himself, his ancestors, and successors; but, at the dissolution under Henry VIII., it met the fate of all institutions of that nature; the site was however retained by the family of the Cobham's, and Lord Cobham left it by will to executors in trust, that they should re-edify it, and erect a new college for the maintenance of the poor for ever. The families of twenty-four indigent persons, in consequence of that bequest, enjoy a comfortable habitation, in addition to which they have a quarter of an acre of land each, and a monthly stipend of 6s. 8d. This new college was finished in 1598. The old building seems to have been quadrangular; part of the east wall, overgrown with ivy, is still standing, with some other vestiges of the fabric. In Cobham church is a monument of the founder, whereon appears his effigy on a brass plate, holding a representation of the college in his hands. There are also memorials of several members of this eminent family, and, among the most distinguished, a handsome altar tomb in the chancel, on which lie the effigies of two persons at full length, and several children kneeling. This tomb was raised to commemorate George lord Cobham, governor of Calais in the reign of Elizabeth, who died in 1558.

Cobham Hall, though by no means grand in its external appearance, retains considerable remnants of its ancient baronial splendor. It is built in the form of an half H, the extremities of the side wings terminating in octagonal towers, and, with a centre and ha, ha, in front, enclose a square lawn, containing statues, vases, &c. The taste displayed in the central part of the structure is due to its architect, Inigo Jones, the whole being cased with brick, and sashed by the late earl of Darnley, which take from the uniformity of the edifice, as it does not coincide with the old wings that formed part of the residence of the Cobham's. Therein are projecting entrances (now

disused,) of stone, which extend to the roofing; that to the south displaying the arms and supporters of the Cobham's, produced in bold relief in the upper compartment.

From the lawn opens the *vestibule*, partly fitted up in the Turkish and part in the Italian taste; the chimneypiece of marble is particularly elegant, having a sculptured bacchanalian subject in front, surrounded by statues and various ornaments. The small figures of Hercules, and the Apollo of the Vatican standing above, with the group of Cupid and Psyche, are executed in the finest style. From this apartment you enter the music room, furnished by the present earl, at an expenditure of £20,000, the length being fifty, the breadth forty, and the height forty-four feet. The ceiling is divided into square compartments, having a deep oval in the middle, the whole finely gilt, and enriched by ornaments, &c. The lower part of the sides are lined with grey veined marble, between pilasters painted in imitation of Sienna marble, supporting rich fascia and a cornice. At either end is a gallery, supported by four columns, cased with Sienna marble, having bases and capitals of Roman marble, the latter being particularly well sculptured. The chimneypiece presents full-length marble statues, and a sculpture from the story of Phæton. Above is a full-length painting of the duke of Richmond, son of Charles I., and one of his brothers, and, over, the gilt arms, &c. of Lord Darnley. The furniture is splendid, and among the ornaments are eight alabaster vases on pedestals, with statues of the Venus de Medicis and Apollo.

The interior of the north wing has undergone complete repair under the direction of the famous Wyatt, now Sir B. Wyattville, and a new arched entrance in the Gothic taste has been built. This communicates with a vaulted passage, leading to the grand staircase, also altered to the Gothic style, having on a shield above the quarterings of the Darnley family. Thence you proceed to a gallery amply lined by pictures of the first masters, the length being 134 feet. The four chimneypieces are beautifully wrought in black and white marble, as are all the rest in the ancient parts of Cobham hall, bearing the arms of the Cobham's, with the date 1587. In an adjoining chamber Queen Elizabeth was lodged during her visit here to William lord Cobham, in the 1st year of her reign, her arms still adorning the ceiling.

The basement story contains the dining-parlour, the chimney-piece of which exhibits a full-length statue of Pomona, &c. and under the cornice is an outline engraving of Moses striking the rock. In the apartments of the south wing are many fine pictures, one in particular of the death of Cyrus, by Rubens, for which 2000 guineas was refused; among the masters here displayed are specimens of Titian, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Salvator Rosa, &c.

The park, including 1800 acres, is nearly seven miles in circumference, beautifully diversified, and abundantly wooded, the oaks in particular are large and venerable. To the south is a splendid avenue of limes, consisting of four rows, the extent being 1000 yards. On an elevated site, at the southeastern extremity of the park, is the mausoleum, or chapel, the erection of which cost £30,000, designed by the late earl as a place of sepulture for his family. The edifice forms a conspicuous object to a considerable distance, and occupies a spot called William's hill, whereon once stood a chapel. The mausoleum is octangular, built of Portland stone, the columns of each angle supporting a sarcophagus, and the summit terminating in a quadrangular pyramid. The vault contains sixteen recesses, or burial-places, besides those allotted for the late earl and his countess. There is also a chapel elegantly fitted up, the windows being of stained glass, ornamented by Brocotello marble.

In October 1714, the 1st of George I., Sir Richard Temple, bart. was by letters patent created Baron Cobham, of Cobham, in the county of Kent. He was grandson of Sir Peter Temple, bart., who married his second wife, by whom only he had issue male, the eldest daughter and heir of Sir John Leveson, who by descent entitled Sir Peter Temple to the titles of baron and viscount Cobham, and, on April 7, 1718, was created baron and viscount of the same place, with a limitation of both titles to his heirs; and, in default, to Hester, his second sister, wife of Richard Grenville, esq., and to the heirs male of her body. Richard viscount Cobham died in 1749, without issue, on which his titles and estates descended to his sister, Hester Grenville, above mentioned, who was created in 1749 Countess Temple, with the dignity of Earl Temple to her heirs male. She died in 1752, and was succeeded by her eldest son and heir, Richard Grenville Temple, earl Temple, viscount and baron Cobham,

who died in 1779, without issue, on which his titles descended to his nephew, George Nugent Grenville Temple, the eldest son of his next brother George, afterwards created marquis of Buckingham.

This place gave both seat and name to the noble and eminent family of the Cobham's, who possessed this manor and mansion called Cobham hall, and who from the earliest times filled the highest posts of trust and honour, with lustre to themselves and their country.

Henry de Cobham, owner of this estate, was one of the *Recognitores magnæ assisæ*, in the 1st of King John, and bore for his arms, *Gules, on a chevron, or, three fleurs de lis, azure.* He left three sons, John, Reginald, and William, of whom Reginald, the second, was a justice itinerant in the reign of Henry III., sheriff of Kent, and constable of Dover castle. He died in the 42d year of that reign; and William, the third son, had also been a justice itinerant under the same monarch. John de Cobham, the eldest, succeeded his father in the manor of Cobham, and was twice married; first, to the daughter of Warine Fitzbenedict, by whom he had two sons; John, of Cobham, and Henry, commonly called le Uncle, who was of Roundal, in Shorne; and secondly, to Joane, daughter of Hugh de Neville, by whom he had one son Reginald, who was ancestor of the Cobham's of Sterborough castle, in Surrey, and the Lords Borough.

John, the eldest son above mentioned, by his first wife, was knighted, and, on account of his having been constable of Rochester castle early in life, was commonly called the *young constable.* He bore for his arms, *Gules, on a chevron, or, three lions rampant, sable,* which coat was continued by his posterity. He was extremely conversant in the laws of the realm, and, among other high employments, under Henry III., was sheriff of Kent. He was likewise justice itinerant, and subsequently justice of the Common Pleas; and, in the reign of Edward I., one of the justices of the court of King's Bench. In the 3d year of that monarch he was also one of the king's sergeants at law, and baron of the exchequer, and in the 4th year of the same prince had a grant of the king's special favor for the change of the descent of all his gavelkind lands, and that they should in future descend as lands held by sergeantry, or knight's service.

He died in the 28th year of the above king, possessed of this manor, and others in the county of Kent, leaving by Joan his first wife, a son, Henry de Cobham, who had possession granted of the lands of his inheritance, excepting the dowry of Methania, his father's last wife, who lies buried in this church, having an epitaph in French, without any date. He attended Edward I. in his victorious expedition into Scotland, and was knighted at the siege of Carlaverock, in that kingdom, where four of this family received the same honour, viz. Sir Henry and Sir Reginald de Cobham, of Cobham, Sir Henry de Cobham le Uncle, of Roundal, and Sir Stephen his son.

Sir Henry, who possessed this manor, and had the addition of *junior*, to distinguish him from Henry, his uncle, then living, was, in the 8th of Edward II., made constable of Dover castle, and warden of the Cinque Ports; and, during the wars of Scotland, governor of Tunbridge castle; and summoned to Parliament in the 6th year of that reign. He left by Maud de Columbiers, his wife, three sons; John, who succeeded him at Cobham; Thomas, who was of Beluncle, in Hoo; and Reginald, rector of Cowling. Sir John, the eldest son, in the 9th of Edward III., had been made admiral of the king's fleet, from the mouth of the Thames westward, and afterwards a justice of Oyer and Terminer in Kent, and constable of the city and castle of Rochester. In the 17th year of that reign he obtained a charter of *free warren* within all his demesne lands in his lordship of Cobham, and other manors belonging to him in this county; and, in the 25th of that reign, received a summons to Parliament, and was afterwards made a banneret, and served in the wars in France. He died in the 33d year of that reign, possessed of this manor of Cobham, leaving by Joan, his wife, daughter of John lord Beauchamp, of Stoke, one son, John de Cobham, of Cobham, who, one year after the death of his father, began the foundation of the chantry or college before mentioned. In the 40th and 41st of Edward III., he served in the wars in France, and, in the latter year, was sent ambassador to Rome, at which period he obtained the grant of a weekly market, and an annual fair at his manor of Cobham.

In the 1st of Richard II. he was appointed one of the king's council, and again served in the French wars, with three knights, 105 esquires, 110 men at arms, and was made a ban-

neret. In the 4th year, he obtained license to convert his mansion at Cowling, which he then rebuilt, into a castellated edifice, and at the same time he erected the new bridge across the Medway, at Rochester. In the 10th year of that reign, he was appointed one of the thirteen lords, constituted governors of the realm, to inquire into the former discrepancies of government; on which account he was impeached for high treason by the lords appellant, and received judgment of death, being also condemned to forfeit such lands as he had in fee, in the 10th year of the same reign, with his goods, and all his fee-tailed lands, during his life, with remainder to the right heirs in tail. Notwithstanding this, the king, of his grace, (on condition that no further pardon was made to him,) granted his life, during which he was to remain a prisoner in Jersey. On the accession of Henry IV. he was received into favor by the king, and, having been constantly summoned to Parliament to the period of his death, which happened in the 9th year of that reign, when he possessed this manor, and others in the county, and was buried in the church of Cobham, holding, as before observed, in effigy, a church in his hands, sculptured in brass, as founder of the college here. He married Margaret, one of the daughters of Hugh Courtenay, earl of Devonshire, by whom he had an only daughter Joan, who died during his life, leaving by her husband, Sir John de la Poole, an only daughter Joan, who, on the death of her grandfather, John lord Cobham above mentioned, became his heir. She is said to have had five husbands, of whom Sir Reginald, second son of Sir Gerard Braybrooke, was the second, who died at Midleborough, in Flanders, A.D. 1405, and lies buried in this church, as also their two sons, Reginald and Robert, who died infants. By him she left an only daughter Joan, who subsequently became heir to her estates, as well as to the barony of Cobham. At the time of the decease of her grandfather she was wife of Sir Nicholas Hawberk, who died at Cowling castle in 1407, by whom she left no issue, after which she married Sir John Oldcastle, who in her right assumed the title of Lord Cobham, and possessed this manor, with her other estates. He bore for his arms, *Argent, a castle of three towers, embattled, sable;* which arms, impaled with those of Cobham, are carved on the roof of the cloisters at Canterbury, as are also those of the several branches of the Cobham family.

Upon the execution of Sir John Oldcastle, Joan his wife, surviving, became entitled to Cobham manor and the other estates of her inheritance, of which she died possessed in the 12th of Henry VI. She was at that time the wife of John Harpden, who, if he was then living, did not possess this, or any of her other estates after her death, as her only daughter and heir, Joan, by her second husband, Sir Gerard Braybrooke, then entitled her husband, Sir Thomas Brooke, of Somersetshire, to the possession of the same, and in her right also he became Baron Cobham. He died in the 17th of Henry VI., leaving by her ten sons and four daughters.

The family of Brooke was seated at the manor De la Brooke, near Ilchester, in the above county, in the reign of Edward I., and bore for their arms, *Gules, on a chevron, argent, a lion sable, langued and unguled, gules, crowned, or.* Of the surviving sons of Sir Thomas Brooke, Edward was the eldest, Reginald, was of Aspal, in Suffolk, and Hugh was ancestor of the Brookes's of Glastonbury abbey, and Barrow grove, in Somersetshire. Sir Edward succeeded his father in his title and estates at Cobham, and received a summons to Parliament by the title of Edward Brooke de Cobham. He was a firm adherent to the house of York, and died possessed of this manor in the 4th of Edward IV.

His direct descendant, Sir George Brooke lord Cobham, procured the disgavelment of his lands in the 31st of Henry VIII. He was of great eminence in his time, especially during the reign of Edward VI., being then a privy counsellor, knight of the Garter, and lord deputy of Calais. Among the Harleian MSS. is a large collection of letters on state affairs, to and from this lord Cobham, lord deputy during the reigns of Henry VIII., Edward VI., and Queen Mary; but, in the 1st year of the latter princess, he was committed to the Tower, on suspicion of being concerned in the insurrection with Sir Thomas Wyatt, but shortly after released. He resided both at Cowling castle, and Cobham hall, at the former of which he died in the 6th of Queen Mary, and was interred in this church. By Anne, his wife, sister and coheir of John lord Bray, he had ten sons, and four daughters; of the former, William was the eldest; George, the second; Thomas, the third; John, the fourth, called also Cobham; Sir Henry Brooke, the fifth, also Cobham, had several

sons and daughters, of whom the second son, Sir John Brooke, of Hokington, in Lincolnshire, was, in consequence of his loyalty under Charles I., advanced to the title of Lord Cobham.

Sir William succeeded his father in his estates, and as Lord Cobham, and on the 17th of July following, entertained Queen Elizabeth at Cobham hall, in the 1st year of her reign, in a princely style, as she made her progress through Kent. He was much in favor with that queen, and continually employed by her in different negotiations abroad, being lord warden of the Cinque Ports, constable of Dover castle, lord lieutenant of the county of Kent, one of her privy council, lord chamberlain, and knight of the Garter. He died in the 39th year of that reign, and was buried at Cobham, having borne for his arms fourteen coats; *Brooke, Cobham, Delapole, Peverel, Braybrooke, St. Amand, Bray, Haliwell, Norbury, Butler, Sudley, Mountfort, Croser, and Dabernon.* He was twice married, first to Dorothy, daughter of George lord Abergavenny, by whom he had an only daughter, married to Thomas Coppinger, esq. of Stoke, and secondly to Frances, daughter of Sir John Newton, by whom he had three sons and three daughters. Of the former, the eldest succeeded him in title and estate; Sir William, the second son, was twice married, but died without male issue; George, the youngest, married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Thomas lord Borough, by whom he had issue two daughters, Margaret, the eldest, married Sir Thomas Sondes, of Throwley, from whose sole daughter and heir Frances, descended the marquis of Buckingham, viscount and baron of Cobham, as previously mentioned.

Henry lord Cobham, the eldest son, was likewise lord warden of the Cinque Ports, constable of Dover castle, lord lieutenant of the county, and knight of the Garter; but, in the 1st of James I., being accused of high treason, with George, his brother, and others, they were brought to trial, and had judgment of death pronounced against them. George was beheaded, but the execution of the Lord Cobham, and some others, was, through the clemency of the king, superseded, but his estates, which were said to have been worth £7,000 per annum in land, and £30,000 in goods and chattels, being forfeited to the crown, he lived many years afterwards in great misery and poverty, and died in 1619. He married Frances, daughter of Charles earl

of Nottingham, and widow of the earl of Kildare, by whom he had no issue, so that William, son of his brother George, became his heir, and was restored (with his sisters) in blood, in the 7th year of that reign, but not to enjoy the title of Lord Cobham, without the especial grace of the king, which was, however, never granted.

This manor thus devolving to the crown, was confirmed to it by an Act passed in the 3d of James I., as were also all grants made by the king of the Lord Cobham's estates and possessions; after which, this manor, with the seat of Cobham hall, and the rest of the Lord Cobham's lands in this parish, was granted by the king, in his 10th year, to his kinsman, Lodowick Stuart, duke of Lenox; who, with his brother, the Lord Aubigny, and their children, had been naturalized by Parliament in the 1st of that reign. This name was spelt Obigney in the Act then passed of naturalization.

Lodowick, duke of Lenox, was the son of Esme Stuart, created duke of Lenox, in Scotland, by James I., and grandson of John lord Aubigny, younger brother of Matthew earl of Lenox, who was grandfather to that king. During the life of his father he bore the titles of Lord Darnley Tarbolton and Methven, and, on his death, succeeded to the dukedom, and likewise to the hereditary offices of lord chamberlain, and admiral of Scotland. After the accession of King James to the throne of England, he was made privy counsellor, and knight of the Garter, and in the 11th year of that prince created Lord Settrington, of Settrington, in Yorkshire, earl of Richmond, and, in the 21st year of the same reign, earl of Newcastle upon Tyne, and duke of Richmond. He died suddenly at Whitehall, in the month of February following, and was honourably interred in the chapel of Henry VII. in Westminster abbey, where a stately tomb is erected to his memory. The duke's arms within the Garter are painted in one of the windows of the middle Temple hall, viz. four coats quarterly, first and fourth, *Azure, three fleurs de lis, or, within a bordure, gules, charged with eight round buckles, or.* Second and third, *Argent, a fess, chequy, argent and gules, within a bordure engrailed of the field; over all an escutcheon of pretence, argent, a saltier engrailed, between four roses, gules:* motto, *Avant Darnley.* The same arms, without the Garter, as well as those of his brother Esme, are in the east

window of Gray's Inn hall. Although three times married, he left no issue by either of his wives, so that he was succeeded as duke of Lenox, and in this estate, by his only brother, Esme Stuart lord Aubigny, who had been created Lord Leighton, of Leighton Bromswold, in Huntingdonshire, and earl of March, in the 17th year of the above reign. He married Catherine, sole daughter and heir of Gervas lord Clifton, of Leighton Bromswold, who had received summons as such to Parliament, by writ, July 9, in the 6th year of that reign, by whom he had seven sons and four daughters. Of the former, James, earl of March, the eldest, will be mentioned hereafter; George, called Lord Aubigny, was slain at the battle of Edge hill, in 1642, leaving by Catherine, his wife, daughter of Theophilus, earl of Suffolk, one son Charles, and a daughter Catherine. John died of the wounds he received in the fight of Bramdene, in 1644, and Bernard was captain of the king's horse guards, in which post he performed eminent services, and in consideration of the same was designed to have been created baron of Newbery, and earl of Litchfield, and accordingly took upon himself those titles, but before the necessary forms could be completed, he was slain in a fight with the Parliament forces, near Chester, in 1645, and buried near his brothers George and John, in the choir of Christ church, Oxford.

Esme, duke of Lenox, survived his brother but a short time, dying the next year, and was succeeded by his eldest son James, duke of Lenox, who in 1641 was created duke of Richmond. He was also hereditary lord high chamberlain, and admiral of Scotland, lord steward of the king's household, warden of the Cinque Ports, gentleman of the bedchamber, and knight of the Garter. He married Lady Mary, the only daughter of George Villiers, duke of Buckingham, and widow of Charles lord Herbert, and died in 1655, when he was buried near his uncle, Lodowick, duke of Richmond, in Westminster abbey, leaving an only son Esme, and a daughter Mary.

Esme, duke of Richmond and Lenox, the son, died in France A.D. 1660, being at that time about ten years of age, upon which his titles, and this manor of Cobham, among other estates, devolved to his cousin german, and next heir male, Charles Stuart, earl of Litchfield, son of his uncle George lord Aubigny, above mentioned, next surviving brother of his father, James,

duke of Richmond, who, although twice married, left no issue. He died near Elsineur, being then a knight of the Garter, and ambassador to that court in 1672. Upon his demise, Catherine his sister and heir became entitled to this manor, who married Henry lord Obrien, eldest son and heir of Henry earl of Thomond, by whom she had two sons and two daughters; Donatus Obrien, who married Lady Sophia Osborne, daughter of the duke of Leeds, who was drowned in 1682, leaving no issue, and George, the second son, died young. Of the daughters, Mary married the earl of Kildare, by whom she had one son, who died young, and Catherine married Edward lord Cornbury, son and heir of Henry earl of Clarendon. Catherine lady Obrien upon the decease of her mother, sister and sole heir of Charles duke of Richmond and Lenox, became entitled to the barony of Clifton, and in 1673 preferred her petition to the House of Lords, that she might be allowed to retain the same, when the judges, to whom the petition had been referred, by order of the house, having reported their unanimous opinion in her favor, the lords, in consequence, granted her claim.

Henry lord Obrien, husband of the Lady Catherine, died in 1678, whose issue has already been mentioned, and she again married, in the December following, Sir Joseph Williamson, of Milbeck hall, in Cumberland, one of the principal secretaries of state, as well as privy counsellor, whom she entitled to her interest in this manor; but, the duke of Richmond having died greatly in debt, the estate, with Cobham hall, and the rest of his property, was sold to pay off incumbrances, &c., when those in this parish were purchased by Sir Joseph Williamson, consisting of the manor of Cobham, the great mansion, with its appurtenances, the inward park, generally called the deer park, with the paddocks, containing 830 acres, the woods in the out park containing 400 acres, with several farms thereon, comprising, in the whole, 2345 acres. He afterwards resided at Cobham hall, and died possessed of the estate in 1701. Sir Joseph Williamson was a minister's son of Cumberland, and had been once plenipotentiary to Holland, as well as Cologne, in 1697, and likewise in the same capacity to France. He was president of the Royal Society, and by will left several charitable legacies, particularly to Thetford, which place he had formerly represented in Parliament. He left £6000 to Queen's

college, Oxford, where he had been educated, and founded a mathematical school at Rochester for the sons of freemen, which city he had likewise represented in the House of Commons. His paternal arms were, *Argent, on a chevron, engrailed, azure, three crescents, or, between as many trefoils, sable*, which coat was altered by Sir Edward Walker, garter at arms in 1672, by patent, for *Or, a chevron engrailed, between three trefoils, slipt, sable.* By his last will, he bequeathed two thirds of his estates here, and elsewhere in this county, to the Lady Catherine his wife, and one third to Mr. Joseph Hornsby, who was likewise one of his executors.

Lady Catherine Obrien died in the November following, upon which two thirds of this manor and seat, with the rest of the estates of the late duke of Richmond, purchased by Sir Joseph Williamson, descended to Edward lord Clifton and Cornbury, (son of Edward lord Cornbury, afterwards earl of Clarendon, and Catherine, only daughter and heir of the said Lady Catherine, by her first husband, Henry lord Obrien,) and on his death, without issue, in 1713, to his only surviving sister and heir, the Lady Theodosia Hyde, who, in the August following, carried her interest in the same, by marriage, to John Bligh, esq. of the kingdom of Ireland. The other third of these estates, on the decease of Joseph Hornsby, became vested in his widow, Mrs. Mary Hornsby, between whom and Mr. Bligh, and the Lady Theodosia his wife, there were long and vexatious litigations in the court of Chancery, concerning their several interests therein. In 1718 there was a decree for a partition of the property, which, through the disagreement of the parties, came to nothing; and subsequently they agreed that the whole should be put up to public sale, and the produce arising divided in specie, according to their respective interests in the same.

After that period, Mr. Bligh above mentioned, (who had been in 1721 created Lord Clifton, of Rathmore, in Ireland, was the next year advanced to that of Viscount Darnley, of Athboy, and lastly, in 1725, to the earldom of Darnley, in that kingdom,) entered into a contract, before a master in Chancery, for the purchase of the manor of Cobham, as well as the rest of the estates of the late Sir Joseph Williamson, then in litigation as above mentioned, for the sum of £51,000, the third part of which Mrs. Hornsby became entitled to for her share in the same.

John earl of Darnley was grandson of John Bligh, esq. of London, son of William Bligh, esq. of Plymouth, in Devonshire, who, in the reign of Charles I., was seated at Rathmore, in the county of Meath, and died in 1666, leaving by Catherine, his wife, sister to William Fuller, bishop of Lincoln, an only son Thomas, and six daughters.

Thomas Bligh, esq. of Rathmore, was knight of the shire for the county of Meath, and a privy counsellor of that kingdom. He died at Bath in 1710, and was buried at Rathmore, in Ireland, having married Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Col. James Napier, of the county of Meath, by whom he had four sons, and six daughters. Of the former, John, the eldest, was created earl of Darnley, and married in 1713 Lady Theodosia Hyde, baroness Clifton, as already mentioned. Thomas, the second son, was of Brittas, in the county of Meath, and, choosing a military life, acquired the rank of lieutenant general, after a service of fifty years, when he retired to his seat above mentioned, where he died in 1775, aged eighty, without issue, and was buried at Rathmore. Robert, the third son, was dean of Elphin, in Ireland, and, on his brother's death, without issue, became heir to a very considerable estate; and Anthony, the fourth son, was a lieutenant of dragoons, and died unmarried in 1737.

The earl of Darnley died at Epsom in 1728, and was buried in Westminster abbey, having survived his lady, who died in 1722, in the twenty-sixth year of her age, and was buried near her brother Lord Cornbury, in that abbey. By her he left two sons, Edward and John, successively earls of Darnley, and three daughters, of whom Mary was married to William Tighe, esq. of the kingdom of Ireland, by whom she had issue, Anne, first espoused to Robert Hawkins Magill, esq. of the county of Downe, by whom she had issue, and secondly to Bernard Ward, esq., member for that county, afterwards created baron and viscount Bangor of the kingdom of Ireland, and Theodosia, married to William Crosbie, esq. of that kingdom, afterwards created a peer of the realm, by the title of earl of Glandore.

After the death of the earl, Hornsby brought his bill in Chancery, in 1731, against his executors, to have the purchase of Cobham, and the rest of the estates completed, which the

court decreed, and it was accordingly complied with by Edward earl of Darnley, his heir and successor, who then became possessed of the entire fee of these estates. Edward earl of Darnley had succeeded to the English barony of Clifton, in right of his mother, on her death. He was fellow of the Royal Society, lord of the bedchamber to Frederic prince of Wales, and hereditary high steward of the corporation of Gravesend and Milton. He died unmarried in 1747, and was buried near his mother in Westminster abbey. John, his only brother, succeeded to his titles and estates, and in 1766 married the daughter and heir of John Stoyte, esq. of the county of Westmeath, in Ireland, by whom he had three sons, John lord Clifton, Edward, and William, and four daughters. Mary, married to Mr. Palk; Theodosia, who espoused Thomas Bligh, esq., nephew of General Bligh, and Sarah and Catherine. The earl died in 1781, and was succeeded by the Right Hon. John earl of Darnley, lord Clifton, &c., the present inheritor of the manor of Cobham, with the hall, parks, and other estates belonging thereto, where he resides. He is hereditary high steward of Gravesend and Milton, born in June 1767, and married, Sept. 19, 1791, Elizabeth, third daughter of the late Right Hon. William Brownlow. He had issue, first, Lady Catherine, born June 18, who died January 10, 1802; secondly, John lord Clifton, born May 23, who died June 4, 1793; thirdly, Edward lord Clifton, born February 25, 1795, and married 1825, M.P. for the city of Canterbury. This noble family bears for its arms, *Azure, a griffin segreant, or, armed and langued gules, between three crescents, or,* for Bligh, quartering quarterly, Hyde, Obrien, Stuart, and Clifton, in one coat, and in another *Stoyte;* for his crest, *on a wreath, a griffin's head, erased, or;* and for his supporters, *two griffins, with wings expanded, or, each having a ducal collar, and chained, azure.*

The park to this magnificent mansion, as previously observed, is finely interspersed with woods and stately timber trees, many of the latter being of great age and size; some of the oaks are twenty feet and upwards in circumference; the famous chesnut tree, called the *Four Sisters,* from being divided into four very large arms, stands in the Grove, about a mile from the hall, near the path leading to Knight's place farm, and is thirty-two feet

in circumference. The herbage is so excellent, that the venison produced thereon is highly esteemed as being of a finer flavor than most others in this county.

COBHAMBURY is a manor, which, in the reign of Henry III. belonged to Robert de Burnvile, who for his service, and 200 marks sterling, sold it, with the appurtenances, to Henry de Gaunt, to hold of him and his heirs in fee, and perpetual inheritance, at the yearly rent of one penny, in lieu of all services, customs, and secular demands, and by performing the services due to the capital lord of the fee. In the beginning of the next reign of Edward I., Henry de Gaunt, in consideration of 360 marks of silver, in hand paid, granted to Walton de Merton, bishop of Rochester, his manor in the parish of Cobham, called Cobhamberi, with all the appurtenances belonging thereto, and the mill, which he had bought of Peter de Cobham, to hold to the bishop and his successors, bishops of Rochester.

At the period when this manor devolved to the see of Rochester, it was valued at eleven marks, but in the 15th of Edward I. it was only estimated at £4 0 5, at which sum it was taxed in the 33d of Edward III.

There is an account in a manuscript in the Cottonian library, of the stock to be left on the several manors of this bishopric, after the decease of each bishop, wherein it states that at Cobhamberi there should remain four stallions and four oxen, but no implements either from those, or any other lands which had been purchased, and happening by escheat.

In the 7th of Edward I., when the bishop of Rochester claimed certain liberties by the grant of King Henry, in all his lands and fees, they were allowed by the jury in all, except this manor of Cobhamberi; which liberties were confirmed, with the same exceptions, to Thomas de Woldham, bishop of Rochester, in the 21st of Edward I.

In 1519 this manor, then usually styled the farm or prebend of Cobhambury, was held under the bishop of Rochester by one Mr. Horsey, who again let it to Mr. George Cromer, master of Cobham college, at the yearly rent of £26 8. Soon after the reformation under Henry VIII., the bishop of Rochester's interest in this estate, with the lands and appurtenances belonging thereto, was surrendered to the king, who granted it in fee to Sir George Brooke lord Cobham, whose grandson, Henry

lord Cobham, being attainted in the 1st of James I., forfeited the estate to the crown, together with the rest of his property, and in the 3d year of that reign an Act passed for establishing them in the crown, with a confirmation of all grants made by the king.

King James I. then granted this manor, prebend, or farm of Cobhambury, to Sir Robert Cecil, earl of Salisbury, who died possessed of the same in 1612, leaving by Elizabeth his wife, sister of the above unfortunate George lord Cobham, a son, William earl of Salisbury, who in the reign of Charles I. alienated this estate to Mr. Zachary King. His descendant, Francis King, sold it in 1570 to Gilbert Spencer, esq., of Redleafe house, in Penshurst, who died possessed of it in 1707, and was buried at Penshurst.

His second but eldest surviving son, Robert Spencer, esq., possessed this estate on his father's decease, who was of Dorking, in Surrey, and dying without issue in 1730, the property went to his brother Abraham Spencer, esq. of Penshurst, sheriff for this county in 1736. He died unmarried in 1740, and was buried at Penshurst, having by will devised the manor of Cobhambury to Thomas Harvey, esq. of Tunbridge, who died possessed of it in 1779, and by will gave it to his wife, Mrs. Charlotte Harvey, for her life, with remainder to his second son, William Thomas, who both, in 1793, joined in the conveyance of this estate to the Right Hon. John earl of Darnley, the present possessor.

This prebend or farm of Cobhambury, is valued in the king's books of ecclesiastical benefices at £128 2 1, the yearly tenths being £12 16 2½; which are still paid by the owner to the crown. A court-baron is held for this manor.

HENHURST, usually called HENNIS, is a manor in this parish, which, in the time of the Conqueror, was part of the possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux, of whom it was held by Ansgotus de Rochester, and was entered in Domesday under the general title of that prelate's estates.

This manor afterwards devolved to the possession of one Goteclin de Hoenherste, who became a monk in St. Andrew's priory, in Rochester. His descendant, William de Lanvalai, died possessed of it in the reign of Henry III., leaving his son and heir an infant; in consequence of which it came into the

possession of Hubert de Burgh, chief justiciary of this realm, as having the custody of him during his infancy.

In the 15th of the next reign of Edward I., Edmond, son of William de Pakenham, died possessed of this manor; after which it was given to the priory of Leeds, in this county, where it continued till the final dissolution of that house, in the reign of Henry VIII. This manor, among the rest of the possessions belonging to that institution, became vested in the crown, whence it was soon after granted to Sir George Brooke, lord Cobham, who immediately after conveyed it to Sir George Harpur, of Sutton Valence, sheriff of this county in the 2d of Edward VI., who bore for his arms, *Within a bordure engrailed, a lion rampant;* his lands were disgavelled by an Act passed in the 2d and 3d years of that reign.

On the accession of Queen Mary, having engaged in the rebellion raised by Sir Thomas Wyatt, he was committed to the Tower, whence being released, he was pardoned by the queen. He left by Mildred his wife, one son, Sir Edward Harpur, who, in the reign of Elizabeth, alienated this manor to Mr. Thomas Wright, whose son, George, dying without issue, devised it by will to his kinsman, Sir George Wright. His son, in the reign of Charles I., conveyed it by sale to Dr. Obert, physician to the queen, who, after some years, alienated it to Henry Gifford, esq. of Burstall, in Leicestershire, who was, after the Restoration, created a baronet. His grandson, Sir John Gifford, bart., dying in 1736, without issue, the property devolved to his only sister and heir at law, Anne Gifford, who, in 1750, alienated this manor to John Staples, esq. of the Temple, London; and he devised it, by his last will, to Percival Hart Dyke, bart. of Lullingstone, who subsequently possessed the same.

Gotcelin de Hænherste, who owned this manor, and became a monk of the priory of St. Andrew's, Rochester, as above mentioned, gave to that fraternity half of the tithes of his land of Hænherste, in pure and perpetual alms, to be distributed by the hands of their almoner, to the use of the poor; and they were confirmed to the priory by William de Lanvalai and several succeeding bishops of Rochester, and others.

Those tithes remained in the priory till the dissolution, under Henry VIII., when being surrendered to that monarch, he, in

his 33d year, settled them on his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester.

THE MANOR OF HAYDON, or *Hathdune*, in Saxon called ÆDUNE, but now named THE MOUNT, lies within the bounds of this parish. It was part of the estate of Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in the record of Domesday. Who afterwards possessed it, we cannot learn, but in the beginning of the last century, we find the owner to have been Mr. Hubbard. In 1734, Mr. James Hubbard alienated it to Richard Horsley, esq. of Horton Kirkby, on whose death it became the property of his widow, who sold it to William Stall, esq.

OWLIE is an estate situated at a small distance westward of Cobham street, which was for many centuries the property and residence of the family of the Hayes's, in which it continued down to Mr. Richard Hayes, who by will devised it to trustees. They sold it, subject to the life estate of his sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Hayes, to Mr. Henry Edmeads, son of Mr. Henry Edmeads, of Nutsted; and he ultimately possessed the same.

THE KING'S MANOR OF DARTFORD claimed over lands in this parish, as appears by the escheat rolls and other records, from the earliest times; in all which, the parish of Cobham is mentioned among those wherein that manor extended its jurisdiction. The lands it claims over in this parish are said, in the rolls of that manor, to lie in Havonsee, near Round street, and near the highway leading from Stone street to Cobham street; the rents being paid annually at the court held for the manor of Dartford priory, in Dartford, where the several tenants performed their customary suit and service to Sir Charles Morgan, bart., the proprietor.

COBHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The church, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, is a large and handsome edifice, consisting of three aisles and a large chancel. Among other monuments and inscriptions, is a very noble tomb of white marble, whereon lie the effigies of Sir George Brooke, lord Cobham, governor of Calais, K.G., and his wife, in full proportions, with the figures and names of their children, being ten sons and four daughters, all cut in marble round the same; his death occurred

in 1558. This fine specimen of sculpture appears at one period to have had a canopy of marble, which, with the pillars that supported it, and many pieces of the figures, lie broken and scattered on the ground; we know not whether it has since been repaired. It was erected by his son, Sir William Brooke, in 1561; arms, Brooke quartering Cobham, and seven other coats within the garter. Nearly the whole pavement of the chancel is covered with gravestones of the family of the Cobham's and the Brooke's, many of which were in a state of delapidation, those remaining being as follow: viz. a brass plate and figure, the inscription, in old French capitals, round the edge, for Dame Joan de Cobham; a brass plate and figure in armour, for Thomas de Cobham and Maud his wife. On another, south of the former, in brass, *On a chevron, three lions rampant; and the same impaling three roundles, a file of three points in chief;* and the figure of a woman; round the verge, a French inscription, for Margaret de Cobham, daughter of the earl of Devonshire, wife of the lord Cobham, founder of this place, obt. 1395. The remaining monuments and inscriptions commemorative of this eminent family in the church are too numerous for insertion, some going as far back as Richard II. There are also several for the families of the Clavering's and the Harpur's, as well as a vault, which belonged to that of the Hayes's.

The church of Shorne, with that of Cobham appendant, was given by Henry I. to the monastery of St. Saviour, of Bermondsey; which appropriation was confirmed by Thomas Becket, archbishop of Canterbury.

From an ancient valuation taken in the reign of Edward I., the church of Cobham was estimated at thirty marks, and the vicarage at seven.

In the 36th of Edward III., John de Cobham, lord Cobham, founded a PERPETUAL CHANTRY OR COLLEGE in the church of Cobham, for five priests or chaplains, establishing a college there for the performance of divine services, for ever.

The house or college inhabited by the chaplains and members of this foundation was a large quadrangular building of stone, erected by the lord Cobham, and situated almost adjoining the south-east wall, overgrown with ivy; the large chimney-pieces of the refectory or kitchen, as well as part of the north cloister, still remaining in ruins. The doorway thence into the

church is still visible, through which the master and brethren entered daily to their stalls, on either side of the great chancel, to celebrate mass, for the souls of the founder and his noble family.

COBHAM COLLEGE is a neat quadrangular stone building, erected partly from the materials of the former college, and in part new. It contains twenty lodging-rooms, with a large hall, having a screen at the entrance, and a raised floor at the upper end, as in other ancient halls. At either corner of the large chimneypiece is a shield, one, a saltier in base, an escalop shell; the other, a Saracen's head, being one of the crests of the Brooke's. In the windows are the arms of the founder; and over the South gate of the college, next the gardens, his shield, with twelve quarterings within the garter; beneath which appears an inscription respecting the foundation of the institution.

Dr. Thorpe, of Rochester, being elected one of the wardens of Rochester bridge, and of course one of the presidents of this college, took indefatigable pains to restore it to the flourishing state in which he left it. He had also the seals of the office of presidents re-engraved, with the arms of the founder properly blazoned thereon.

In this parish there are some waterworks, originally erected by one of the Brooke's lords Cobham, for supplying the college, as well as the neighbouring inhabitants, with water. These works being unendowed, through length of time and neglect, fell entirely to ruin, and so continued till 1778, when they were put into good and substantial repair, through the persevering assiduity of Mr. Richard Hayes, of this parish, who did not meet with a grateful return due to his labours from those persons most interested in the benefits arising from the same.

WLFWARDUS DE HOU, surnamed Henry, took upon himself the habit of a monk in St. Andrew's priory, in Rochester, and gave to the brotherhood his TITHES IN COBHAM, which gift was confirmed by Gilbert bishop of Rochester, in the time of King Henry I., and by several of his successors.

Ordiva, granddaughter of Wlfward Henry, gave the tithe of her land in Cobham, called Bethene court, to the same priory. These tithes continued in the possession of that fraternity till surrendered under Henry VIII., who settled them on his new

founded dean and chapter of Rochester, part of whose inheritance they still continue. The Brooke's lords Cobham were for some years lessees of these tithes under the dean and chapter; and in the reign of Charles I., Stephen Alcock, esq. of Rochester, held them in like manner; the Right Hon. Thomas lord le Despencer was subsequently the lessee.

In 1821, there were 116 dwellings in the parish of Cobham; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 334, females 312, making a total of 646 souls.

The parish of Strood, generally called *Stroud*, is so designated by Mr. Hasted; we nevertheless have the authority of a correspondent, who has altered the name to *Strood;* in the *Textus Roffensis* it is spelt *Strodes.* It lies within two jurisdictions, one of which is within that of the justices of the county at large, and the other the bounds of the corporation of the city of Rochester, and hundred of the same. The two divisions are known by the names of *Strood Infra* and *Strood Extra;* the former including that part of the parish from the High street, Rochester, over the bridge, to the mill, called Strood mill, including the same. Thence it goes along the High street, at the right hand side of the same, and so beyond the church, by the high road, to the crossway leading from Rochester to Gravesend, and from Cuxton to Frindsbury, to a house once called the Ship, with the church of Strood; and in circuit, including all Littleborough or Littlebury, back to the city of Rochester and the Medway.

The latter is partly within the jurisdiction of the court held for the hundred of Shamel, and partly within that of the manor of Strood, otherwise Temple.

This parish is situated for the most part southward of the high London road; the river Medway being its eastern boundary as far as Cookstone, near the banks of which is the manor house of the Temple. Thence it rises up the hills till it joins the parish of Cobham, the greatest part being a chalky soil. The town of Strood, through which the high London road leads over Rochester bridge, to Dover, is situated at the northern boundary of the parish, almost adjoining Frindsbury street,

and on the east to the river Medway and Rochester bridge; at the foot of which, are wharfs where colliers of the largest burdens are moored. The town consists of one principal street, having the church at the west end; near which are some remains of the hospital of Newark. The inhabitants consist in a great measure of sea-faring men, fishermen, and oyster-dredgers, established by prescription, but subject to the authority and government of the corporation of Rochester, of which a further account will be given in the description of that city.

An Act of Parliament was passed in 1769, for new paving, lighting, and watching this parish, towards the expense of which, though the inhabitants of Rochester were joined in the same Act, yet the latter were subjected to an annual rate of one shilling in the pound of their rack-rents; whereas those of Strood, in consideration of the large share of statute work belonging to the parish, were subjected only to disburse 9d., whereof two thirds were paid by the landlords, and one third by the tenants. In addition to this, a toll-bar was erected in Strood, the revenue of which was appropriated to the above work.

On the banks of the Medway, about half a mile south of Strood church, was the site of an ancient building, called the Temple, so named from its having been formerly the mansion of the Knight's Templars, the *cellar* of which edifice, with a groined roof of square chalk, was remaining when the survey was taken by Mr. G. A. Cooke, the same being, under the present building, called the Temple Farm.

This gift to the Knight's Templars by Henry II. was confirmed by Kings John and Henry III., but the whole order having been dissolved in the 6th of Edward II., A.D. 1312, Pope Clement V. immediately granted their lands and goods to the Knight's Hospitallers; and which the king afterwards confirmed, and ordered possession to be delivered to them, though he, both before and afterwards, granted several of their manors and estates to laymen and lay uses. The latter circumstance induced Pope John XXII., A.D. 1322, when he confirmed the Templars' lands to the Hospitallers, to denounce curses and excommunications against those nobles, knights, and other laymen, and even ecclesiastics, who against right were possessed of such property.

This bull probably occasioned the Act passed the ensuing year, in which, because the estates of the Templars had been given for goodly purposes, the king, nobles, and others, assembled in Parliament, granted that they should be assigned, according to the will of the donors, to other religious men, that they might be charitably disposed of to godly uses; and they were accordingly settled upon the Hospitallers.

The manor of Strood, otherwise Temple, became accordingly part of the possessions of the Knight's Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, the prior of which order granted the fee of the same to Edward II., who by his writ to the sheriff commanded him to take it into his hands, and account for the profits of the same.

Edward III., in recompense of certain lands and tenements recently belonging to his dear kinswoman, Mary de St. Paul, countess of Pembroke, which he had taken into his hands, granted to her this manor, with its appurtenances, then held *in capite*, for her life; and afterwards, in consequence of the trouble and expense which she had or might be at, in regard to his daughter, Joan of Woodstock, then living with her, he, by other letters patent, in his 12th year, granted this manor and its appurtenances to her and her heirs, for ever. She designed to have built a religious house in her manor here, but altering her mind, gave it, in the 18th year of that reign, to the monastery she had erected at Denny, in Cambridgeshire.

The manor of Strood, otherwise Temple, continued with the above monastery till the dissolution under Henry VIII., when being surrendered to the king, he granted the site of the late monastery at Denny, with the greater part of its possessions, among which was this manor, to Edward Elrington, to hold *in capite*. He, jointly with Grace his wife, alienated this manor of Strood Temple to Sir George Brooke, lord Cobham, and his heirs, whose grandson being convicted of high treason, forfeited this manor, among his other estates, to the crown. It was then granted to Sir Robert Cecil, earl of Salisbury, who had married the sister of the above-mentioned Henry lord Cobham; and he died possessed of it in 1612, leaving it to his only son and heir, William earl of Salisbury. By the latter it was alienated to Bernard Hyde, esq. of London, who, at his death, gave it to his third son, Mr. John Hyde; and he passed

it by sale to James Stuart, duke of Richmond, in the reign of Charles I. By that nobleman, some time after, this manor was conveyed to one Blague, of Rochester, whose son, Isaac Blague, esq., died possessed of it, leaving a widow and two infant daughters. His widow enjoyed the possession of this manor, and upon the death of her second husband, Mr. John Lamport, it again reverted to the Blague's; one of whom alienated it to Mr. John Whitaker, whose nephew, Thomas Whitaker, esq. of Wateringbury, afterwards possessed this estate.

The manor of Goddington, in this parish, mention of which is made under that of Frindsbury, wherein most part of the demesnes lay, was formerly in the possession of Simon Goddington, who paid aid for it in the 20th of Edward III. as half a knight's fee, which Alan de Godyngton before held in Strood of Jeffry de Scoland, and he of the earl of Leicester. Subsequently, this manor, and the demesnes belonging to it in Frindsbury, having been separated, devolved to the possession of the priory of Rochester, and so continued till the suppression of the same, in the reign of Henry VIII., who settled it on his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester, in whom it has remained.

The dutchy of Lancaster claims over this manor.

Boncakes, otherwise Newark, is a manor here, which had owners of the name of Brooke as early as the reign of King John, when Elias, then prior of Rochester, put an end to a suit between that convent and Mathew de Bigstrope, for ten marks sterling, and redeemed the service, which was owing from the sacristy, on the six principal festivals, to William Boncake and his heirs, for the land of Pinendene, in Strood, being parcel of this manor.

In the 20th of Edward III. this property appears to have been divided among several owners, for when the Black Prince was constituted a knight, the master of the Newark or hospital of Strood, the heirs of Richard Gromyn, John the son of William prior of Strood, and the heirs of Simon de Cockeford, paid respective aid for one quarter of a knight's fee, which the said master, Robert Franklyn, and Nicholas de Cockeford, before held in Strood, of Simon de Chellesfelde, and he of Jeffry de Scoland, who had held it of the earl of Leicester.

In the 43d of Edward III., James Peckham released to

Richard Havekyn, of Strood, the third part of a certain court, called Franklyn's court, most probably from the before-mentioned Robert Franklyn, in Strood, together with all rents, suits of court, services, and appurtenances, arising from certain tenements in Strood and Frindsbury, which court and rents once belonged to Hamon Baker, of Strood.

The manor of BONCAKES, together with that of HAWKINS, in this parish, afterwards became part of the possessions of the hospital of Strood, frequently styled Newark, whence the former acquired the addition of that name to its ancient one of Boncakes. They continued with the hospital till it was, together with all its lands and revenues, surrendered, with the king's licence, in the 31st of Henry VIII., to the prior and convent of Rochester, where these manors continued but a few months, as the following year that priory was also dissolved and surrendered, with its possessions, into the hands of the king. He settled the hospital of Strood, with all its lands and possessions, among which were the manors of Boncakes or Newark and Hawkins, on his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom they have remained.

A court-baron is held by the dean and chapter for the manor of Boncakes.

The manor of Hawkins was afterwards held by lease from the dean and chapter, by Francis Burnell, esq., on whose death, without issue male, his interest therein descended to his two daughters and coheirs; Anne, married to the Rev. Francis Dodsworth, and Catherine to the Rev. Frederick Dodsworth, brother of the former, both of whom, in right of their wives, became entitled to the same. There is no court held for this manor.

The dean and chapter were possessed of several small tenements and premises in this parish, parcel of the priory of Rochester, given to it at various times by different persons, an account of many of which grants the reader will find in the *Registrum Roffense.*

THE YOKE, otherwise NORTH YOKE, is a small manor in Strood, which belonged to Mrs. Mary Thornton, daughter of the Rev. Mr. Stephen Thornton, of Luddesdon, who died possessed of it in 1779, when her trustee, the Rev. Samuel Denne, afterwards held the property.

Gilbert de Glanvil, bishop of Rochester, at the beginning of the reign of Richard I., founded an hospital in this parish, not far distant from the east end of the church, which was afterwards called the Newark, or Strood Hospital. It was by him erected in honour of God and the Virgin, for the health of his soul, and those of his predecessors, successors, and benefactors, and the reformation of Christianity in the *Holy Land*; also for the redemption of King Richard I., and cherishing and receiving therein the poor, weak, infirm, and impotent, as well for the neighbouring inhabitants, as travellers from distant parts, who should be suitably provided with beds, victuals, and drink, till their departure, when others should be similarly entertained, for ever. And he further appointed a master, to be nominated in future by himself and his successors, who should, with the advice of the bishop, have the care of the hospital, and being himself a regular, should have with him as many regulars as might enable him to perform the divine services there in a proper manner. At the same time, with the consent of the prior and convent of Rochester, as well as of his archdeacon, he endowed it as therein mentioned, and also exempted the site and precincts of the hospital from all archdeaconal and deaconal jurisdiction, rendering the same only subject to the authority of the pope, the archbishop of Canterbury, and the bishop of Rochester. Lastly he ordained, that after a sufficient allowance for the support of himself, the priests, and servants, all the residue should be applied to the relief of the poor, who were to be increased according to the improvement of the revenues.

From the first establishment of the hospital, a perpetual jealousy subsisted between the monks of St. Andrew's, and the members thereof, as the former could never forget its having been founded out of their revenues, of which they conceived themselves to have been arbitrarily despoiled by Bishop Glanvil. Differences and altercations were therefore very frequent, and once, in particular, the dispute was not terminated without blows. This affray was occasioned by the monks passing in procession through the orchard of the hospital, as previously observed under the parish of Frindsbury, which produced such an effect on the monks, that they never after attempted to pass in procession by that route.

The hospital remained in that situation till the reign of Henry VIII., when John Wyldbore, then master, and the confreers, by their instrument, surrendered up the same with the king's licence.

When Bishop Hamo de Hethe, not long after his promotion to this bishopric, visited the hospital, he found great irregularity; some of the masters having dissipated a considerable part of the revenues, wherefore, in 1330, he made some rules for the better government of the said establishment.

It so continued till the reign of Henry VIII., when it was surrendered, with all appurtenances, to Walter Prior, of the convent of Rochester, at which period the revenues of this place were valued at £52 9 10½.

A few months after the dissolution of the hospital, the priory of Rochester itself was, with all its estates and possessions, surrendered to the king, who soon after settled it on his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester, in whom the inheritance has continued.

The hospital stood on the north side of the High street, near the churchyard; the site still retains the name of Newark, but it is so much covered by modern buildings, that very little of its ancient appearance is discernible.

STROOD is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, was formerly a chapel to the parish-church of Frindsbury, and as such paid sixpence chrism rent to the mother church of the diocese. It is a spacious building, consisting of a nave and two aisles, and the great chancel, with a tower steeple at the west end, wherein is a clock and six bells. On the north side of the chancel is a vestry room, and underneath an ancient charnel-house. In the south aisle is a small stone chapel, built in 1607, formerly belonging to a family of the name of Moreland, and afterwards to that of Gother, late of this town. There appears to have been formerly a chapel therein, dedicated to the Trinity, and another chancel, or altar, to St. Mary, which last was ordered to be repaired by the parish in 1512.

Among other monuments and inscriptions, which are very numerous, are the following. *In the chancel*, a memorial for the Cæsar's; on the south wall a monument for Samuel Gibson,

vicar of Frindsbury, and a brass plate, with the figures of a man and his three wives, for Thomas Glover. In the south aisle is a stone bearing the figure of a religious person, and round the edge an inscription in Saxon capitals, for Mariobe and John Creye; over the door of the chapel, south of this aisle, is an inscription, stating that the chapel was bought and repaired by Captain Richard Wood, in 1705. The raised tombs and head-stones in the churchyard are very numerous, but being for persons in nowise related to this history, are consequently omitted.

In the survey of the church livings of this diocese, taken in 1650, it was returned that Strood was a donative in the gift of the dean and chapter, worth £31 18 3 per annum, Mr. Daniel French being then the incumbent. It was not valued in the king's books.

In 1821 there were 283 dwellings in the parish of Strood Extra; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 778, females 683, making a total of 1461 souls.

Strood Infra is in the jurisdiction of the city of Rochester, and in the last census of the population is entered at the end of the county. The entire parish of Strood contained, in 1821, 2704 inhabitants.

THE PARISH OF COOKSTONE, now generally called *Cuxton*, was written in Domesday, *Coclestune*, and in the *Textus Roffensis*, *Cucolanstan*, and *Cuclestena*. This parish is about four miles square, the river Medway being its northern boundary, close to which is the mansion of Whornes place, and not far distant the church, close to which the road leads from Strood to Halling, southward across the parish. Hence the ground rises over much hill and dale, among the woods, amidst which is Ranscombe farm, and Upper and Lower Bush. About half a mile north-west, beyond the summit of the high hill, is Cobham park, whereof a small portion is in the bounds of this parish, as is also Knight's farm, that adjoins the palings; the latter, as well as Ranscombe, is the property of the earl of Darnley. The soil is chalky in the lower parts of this district, but more westward it abounds in a loamy earth, whereof much

is very fertile land. The situation is rather more healthy than Halling, being farther from the marshes, the ground or upland rising almost immediately from the river.

This estate, with the church, was given to the church of St. Andrew's, in Rochester, and Swithwlf bishop of that see, by Ethelwolf, king of the Saxons, free from all service, together with its appurtenances, the seizure of thieves, and all other matters which belong to the church of St. Andrew's; as well as the fields, woods, meadows, feedings, marshes, in small and great, in known and unknown. Here, as well as at Halling, and other places described in this History, there is no small difficulty in settling the date of the gift. The charter in the *Textus Roffensis* mentions its having been given in 880, the 13th of the reign of Ethelwolf; and Ethelred, archbishop of Canterbury, is one of the subscribing witnesses, who came to that see in 871, and died in 888, whereas King Ethelwolf died in 857, which was fourteen years previous to the time of that archbishop. The 13th year of King Ethelwolf's reign was 853, a time indeed when he was only king of the Saxons, his son Athelstane then reigning in Kent. Philipott and the *Register Roffensis* mention its being given in 838, viz. the 1st year of King Ethelwolf, the reader will, therefore, form his own judgment concerning this matter as he may think fit. The church of Rochester did not long possess this property, which was soon after wrested from it in the Danish wars, then raging in the kingdom.

William the Conqueror gave this place, among other possessions, to Odo, bishop of Bayeux, but Archbishop Lanfranc recovered it, among others, in the solemn assembly held at Penenden heath in 1076, after which he restored it to Gundulph, and the church of St. Andrew's, when the gift of it was subsequently confirmed by several archbishops of Canterbury.

Gundulph, bishop of Rochester, in the reign of William Rufus, following the example of Archbishop Lanfranc, separated his maintenance from that of the monks of his church, in which division this manor was allotted to the bishop and his successors.

On a taxation of the manors of the bishop of Rochester, in 1255, it appears that Cukelstane, then esteemed as a member of the manor of Halling, contained 258 acres of arable land,

each worth four pence at the most, there being no marle there, and there were twenty acres of salt meadow, each worth sixpence, the mill at Cukelstane being valued at one mark. In the valuation of the bishop's manors at the latter end of the above reign, Cukelstane, as an appendage to the manor of Halling, is fully mentioned under the description of that manor; but, in a subsequent valuation, in which the manors of Halling and Cookstone are valued separately, the latter is estimated at forty marks. There is an account in a manuscript in the Cottonian library, of the stock which should remain on this manor of the bishopric, after the decease of each bishop; but, as it is there remarked, that the several articles during the vacancy of the see, were frequently lost or purloined, the succeeding bishops were obliged to replace them.

In the time of the great rebellion, after the death of Charles I., this manor, together with that of Middleton Cheney, was sold, by order of the State, to Robert Fenwick, esq., for £627 12s. with whom it remained till the Restoration of Charles II., in 1660, when, on the establishment of episcopacy, the manor of Cookstone again devolved to its right owner, the bishop of Rochester, as part of the ancient possessions of that see, where the inheritance of it has remained.

WHORNES PLACE, generally called *Hornes place*, is a seat in this parish, situated close to the western bank of the river Medway. It was erected by Sir William Whorne, who had been lord mayor of London in 1487, from whose successor it passed to the name of Harpur in the following year under Henry VIII., in the 32d year of which reign an Act passed for the confirming to George Harpur, and Lucy his wife, this manor of Horne place. From that name it was soon after sold to one Vane, who alienated it to a Barnewell, and he, in the reign of Elizabeth, conveyed it by sale to Nicholas Leveson, esq. of Staffordshire.

This family was originally of Willenhall, in Warwickshire, where Richard Leveson resided in the reign of Henry III. His descendant, Richard Leveson, left two sons, one of whom was of Wolverhampton, in Staffordshire, and changed the paternal coat of his family from *Azure, three laurel leaves erect, or,* to *Quarterly, azure and gules, three sinister hands couped at the wrist, argent,* which coat was continued to his descendants.

John, the other son of Richard Leveson, preserved the coat armour of his progenitors, and was ancestor of Nicholas Leveson above mentioned, whose descendant, Sir John Leveson, of Whorne's place, in a great measure rebuilt this seat, and died without issue male. He was succeeded in this estate by his brother, Sir Richard Leveson, K.B., who was of Trentham, in Staffordshire, and in the reign of Charles I. alienated all his lands in this county to different persons, among which, this of Whorne's place went to John Marsham, esq., descended from a family of that name in Norfolk. He was one of the six clerks in Chancery in the above reign, of which office he was subsequently divested, and his estate plundered, for his loyalty to the king. At the Restoration he was reinstated in his place, and received the honour of knighthood, being at that time of Whorne's place, and three years after created a baronet. He was esteemed a very accomplished gentleman, an excellent historian, and acknowledged to have been one of the greatest antiquaries of his time. He died at Bushy hall, in Hertfordshire, in 1685, and lies buried, with Elizabeth, his wife, in the church of Cookstone, by whom he left two sons, John and Robert. Sir John Marsham, the eldest son, and heir to his father, was also a studious gentleman, twice married, having left by his last wife an only son, John. He purchased the Mote, in Maidstone, and removed thither, where he died in 1692, having been sheriff of this county, and was buried in this church, being succeeded by his only son Sir John Marsham, bart., who survived his father but a few years, dying unmarried in 1696, aged sixteen. On his demise, without issue, the title of baronet, and this seat of Whorne's place, with the rest of his estates in this county, passed to his uncle, Sir Robert Marsham, of Bushy hall, in Hertfordshire, who afterwards resided at the Mote. His only son, Sir Robert Marsham, bart., was in 1716 created Lord Romney, Baron Romney of this county, whose grandson, the present Lord Romney, is now owner of Whorne's place, and the estate in Cookstone, with Halling belonging to the same.

Wicham is a manor which lies partly in this parish, and partly in that of Stroud. Offa, king of the Mercians, to whom Kent was in some measure subjected, and Sigard, king of Kent, gave Æslingham, with its appendages of Freandesbury and Wicham, containing twenty ploughs, to the church of St.

Andrew's, in Rochester, and commended the same to the care of Bishop Eardulph; but this place, with others in the neighbourhood, was wrested from the church of Rochester during the Danish wars.

William the Conqueror gave Wicham to Odo bishop of Bayeux, but Archbishop Lanfranc recovered it at the solemn assembly held on Penenden heath, in 1076. After which the archbishop restored it to Bishop Gundulph, and the church of St. Andrew, which donation was confirmed by Archbishops Anselm and Boniface. Notwithstanding this, the bishop soon afterwards gave Wicham to Goisfrid Talbot, reserving all tithes whatsoever out of the same, which he gave to the monks of Rochester for ever. In the reign of King John this place was in the possession of the family of the Montchensie's. William, son of William de Montchensie, who died in the 6th of King John, held this manor at the time of his death, in the 15th year of that reign, upon which Warine de Montchensie had a living of his whole inheritance. In the 37th of Henry III. he had a charter of *free warren* for his several manors, and died the ensuing year, being succeeded by his son, William de Montchensie, who, in the 8th of Edward I. had a grant in fee of view of frankpledge, and the courts belonging to the same in his lands. In the 17th year of the same reign he died, leaving a daughter and sole heir, Dionisia, who, marrying Hugh de Vere, third son of Robert earl of Oxford, she entitled him to this manor, among others of her inheritance; after which it passed in like manner as the estate of Hartley, and others, into the families of Valence and Hastings, successively earls of Pembroke, and from them to Reginald lord Grey, of Ruthin, who was found to be his cousin and next heir of the whole blood, to John de Hastings, the last earl of Pembroke, who died in the 13th of Richard II. He afterwards being taken prisoner in Wales by Owen Glendower, was obliged to make over this manor, among others, to pay his ransom, for which purpose it was accordingly assigned to Robert Braybrooke, bishop of London, and others, then feoffees of divers of his lordship's manors, to sell this estate, towards raising the sum required. This manor is not mentioned in Dugdale, but it appears from several manuscripts that it was sold at that period by those feoffees, but to whom it then passed we have not ascertained.

However, in the reign of Henry VII., it was in the possession of the name of Sprever, and at the latter end of that of Henry VIII. John Sprever owned it. It next devolved to the possession of the Marsham's, in which family it continued to the Right Hon. Charles lord Romney.

There was a manor in this parish called BERESE, otherwise BERESH, which, in the reign of King John, was owned by a family of that name, Simon de Beresse then possessing it; after which it passed into that of the Wadetone's. In the 49th of Henry III., John, son of Robert de Wadetone, gave it, with all appurtenances, (excepting a certain piece of land, which he had given to the chanter of the church of Rochester,) to the abbey of Lesnes, in free and perpetual alms. The same year John, son of John de Cobham, of whom this manor was held, confirmed this gift to the abbot, with a convent, to hold in pure and perpetual alms, free from all services, customs, and suits of court, to the manor belonging, excepting to the bridge at Rochester, and the yearly rent due to him and his heirs. This, however, being transacted while Laurence de St. Martin, bishop of Rochester, was abroad, the abbot and convent fearing they should be dispossessed of this manor, as being of the bishop free at his return, signed an instrument, whereby, in 1267, in consideration of the sum of 110 marks sterling, they released to him all their right and title to this manor, and gave up the charters, deeds, and instruments relative to the same, at which time it appears that there existed a chapel at this place.

On the death of Bishop Laurence, in 1274, his heirs entered on this manor, as part of their inheritance; but Walter de Merton, the next successor to the see of Rochester, laid claim to the property by the description of one carucate of land, with its appurtenances in Beresh, alleging that Bishop Laurence did not purchase it in his behalf and that of his heirs, but as bishop of Rochester, to him and his successors in that see. That this land, being an appurtenance to the manor of Cookstone, one of the capital manors belonging to the see of Rochester, the abbot did not enfeoffee the bishop therein, but only surrendered it up again, with its appurtenances, to him, as to the capital lord of the fee, which he was not, but as being at that time bishop of Rochester. The bishop had judgment accordingly, and recovered this manor, and Thomas de St. Martin, by his deed,

released to him and his successors, all his right and title therein, as did his descendant, Robert de St. Martin, in the 6th of Edward III., who had brought his plea before the justices of the King's Bench, against Hamo, bishop of Rochester, for this property. Not succeeding, however, he by his deed released all his claim and title to the same, to the bishop and his successors for ever, since which it has been blended with the manor of Cookstone, part of which it was afterwards esteemed.

COOKSTONE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The church, dedicated to St. Michael, contains many memorials and monuments, among which are the following. *In the chancel,* within the rails, on the south wall, a beautiful monument, the arms, *Or, a bend cotized, sable, impaling barry of four, parted per pale, argent and gules counterchanged,* being for Anne, daughter of Charles Barrett, esq. of Belhouse, in Essex, married to Sir Robert Harley, K.B., obiit 1603. By that lady he had issue Thomas, also interred here; the monument in question was repaired by Edward lord Harley, in 1723. A memorial for Sir John Marsham, knight and bart., another for Lady Elizabeth, his wife, daughter of Sir William Hammond, of St. Alban's, in East Kent, and an inscription for Ferdinando Marsham, esq., and many others. On the south wall are the arms of the Marsham's, cut in stone, *A lion passant, between two cotizes,* and beneath, the date 1630. Under an arch, between this and the rector's chancel, is a large altar monument, bearing an inscription in brass, for Master John Bultyll, parson of this church, and chaplain to Prince Edward, obiit 1568.

This church was always an appendage to the manor of Cookstone, and, as such, under the patronage of the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Rochester. In the 15th of Edward I. this church was valued at twelve marks.

The rectory was valued in the king's books at £14 15 5, the yearly tenths being £1 9 6½.

In 1821 there were thirty-one dwellings in the parish of Cookstone; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 200, females 184, making a total of 384 souls.

Drawn by J. Fussell.

Engraved by H. Adlard.

RUINS OF THE EPISCOPAL PALACE AT HALLING.

THE PARISH OF HALLING, written in Domesday and other records *Hallinges*, and in Saxon, *Haling*, meaning the low meadows or pastures.

The parish of Halling is bounded on its eastern side by the river Medway; at a small distance from the banks of which, close to the marshes, is the village called LOWER HALLING, wherein are the ruins of the palace of the bishop of Rochester, and the church. Through this village the route leads from Strood, and thence through Snodland, towards the high London road, to Maidstone, which it encounters at Larkfield. About half a mile westward from Lower Halling, on higher ground, is another village, called UPPER HALLING, situated nearly at the foot of the great ridge of chalk hills; beyond the summit of which this parish extends over the large wood, called Halling wood, at the western boundary, next to Luddesdon. The soil is for the most part chalk, and but poor land; the quantity of marshes, both salt and fresh, between the uplands and the river, render this place far from healthy or pleasant. The parish, with others in this neighbourhood, was anciently contributary to the third pier of Rochester bridge.

Egbert king of Kent, with the consent of his nobles and princes, gave ten plough lands in Halling, with all appurtenances, together with the fields, woods, meadows, marshes, fishings, huntings, and fowlings, belonging thereto, to Bishop Doran and the church of Rochester; whereto he added the following denberies in the Weald, BIXLE, SPELDHIRST, MEREDEN, THAERBE, EASTAN, and RUSTEWELLIE, together with TEPPENHYSE. Among the witnesses who confirmed that gift were King Heaberth and Archbishop Jaenberth. This appears from the *Textus Roffensis;* but the names of the two kings in the deed of gift are quite irreconcilable with the history of those times. Sanibert was archbishop of Canterbury from 764 to 793, at which time it does not appear there were any such kings of Kent as either Egberth or Heaberth, as Aldric was king of Kent from 760 to 794; and Ecbert, king of the West Saxons, had no rule in Kent till 823, nor was he king of the West Saxons until 800. Dioran succeeded to the bishopric of Rochester, and died during the reign of King Aldric. Alford, in his Annals, mentions a letter written in 764 from Eardulf king of Kent, who was, no doubt, some petty prince or *regulus*

in it, as most probably were also Kings Egberth and Heaberth.

Halling does not seem to have remained long in the possession of the church of Rochester, being wrested from it during the confusion of the Danish wars in this kingdom. William the Conqueror gave it to Odo bishop of Bayeux, but Archbishop Lanfranc recovered the manor, among others, at the solemn assembly held at Pinenden heath, in 1076; after which, he restored it to Bishop Gundulph and the church of St. Andrew's; which gift was confirmed by several succeeding archbishops of Canterbury.

In the survey of Domesday, it is entered under the general title of the lands of the bishop of Rochester.

Bishop Gundulph, who was elected to the see of Rochester in the reign of the Conqueror, A. D. 1077, separated, after the example of Lanfranc archbishop of Canterbury, his maintenance, as bishop, from that of the monks of his church; in which division this manor was allotted to the bishop, and by him appropriated for the support of his table, or *ad victum Episcopi*, as it was then styled. Soon after, the pleasant situation of Halling induced the bishop of Rochester to build an episcopal palace there, for himself and his successors, which had become so ruinous when Bishop Gilbert de Glanvil came to the see, in 1185, that he rebuilt it in a more commodious manner.

The year previous to the above date, A. D. 1184, Richard archbishop of Canterbury pursuing his route by Halling and Rochester, in his journey from Wrotham to Canterbury, was obliged to stop at this palace, in consequence of a violent fit of illness, of which he died the next day, and was thence conveyed to Canterbury, to be interred.

On a taxation of the bishop of Rochester's manors, in 1255, it appeared that the whole yearly valuation of the manor of Halling, with the appendages of Holeberge and Cukelstane, of which the rents amounted to £25, was in all £43 18; the necessary and useful repairs, and maintenance of the buildings there, were estimated at 100s. per annum; and that the manor of Halling then contained 262 acres of arable land, valued at 4d. at the most, in consequence of there being no marle there, and thirty-eight acres of salt meadow, each valued at 6d.; and that the vineyard was valued at 13s. 4d. per annum. At the

latter end of the above reign, on a valuation of the bishop's manors, it appeared that he had only six, of which Halling was the principal; wherein, with its appurtenances, Holberge and Cukelstane, it was reputed to contain four ploughs, and yet there were not in reality that number of plough lands, each of which, according to the custom of the country, should have contained 180 acres of arable land, whereas the manor did not circumscribe that quantity; but that the plough lands, with the whole pasture allotted for the keeping of cattle working thereon, were worth £17 per annum: that the annual rents of this manor, as well in money as in hens, eggs, ploughshares, and oblations, with Holberge and Cukelstane, were worth £138 6 4½. It also appeared that there were three mills, valued at 100s. per annum; and that the meadow of the manor was estimated at two marks, £61 12 0½; while in a subsequent valuation, the manor of Halling, without Kokilstan, was computed at 100 marks.

It appears by the pleas taken in the 21st of Edward I., that the bishop of Rochester had his prison within his manor here. Lambarde, in his Perambulation, says, that Hamo de Hethe, bishop of Rochester, and confessor to King Edward II., had a vineyard here, probably the old one mentioned above, in the reign of Henry III.; in his time a plain meadow: and that the bishop sent a present of wine and grapes, the produce of the same, to that prince, in the 19th year of his reign, who then rested at Bokingford, in this county, where he had withdrawn on the charge of his intention of visiting France, for the performance of his homage due for the duchy of Aquitane. Bishop Hamo, in 1322, being the 16th year of the above reign, resided the whole summer at Halling, during which he repaired the ruined buildings of his palace, and raised from the ground the hall and high front: two years afterwards, he finished the enclosure of the walls, and new built the chamber of the clerks, the larder, and the kitchen; and afterwards remained there all the ensuing summer and winter. In 1337, he again repaired and added to the buildings there. The palace stood at a small distance from the church, near the banks of the Medway: in 1715, great part of the ruins remained, viz. the chapel, the hall, and a gate, with the arms of the see of Rochester, in stone; in which state the fabric continued till within memory, but has since been de-

stroyed for the sake of the materials. There is a view of the ruins as they stood, in Grose's Antiquities, vol. ii. In a niche, over the outside of the principal doorway, in 1720, was the figure of Hamo de Hethe, bishop of Rochester, dressed in his episcopal habit, executed in stone, about two feet high, and elegantly finished. It was soon afterwards blown down, during a great storm of wind, but escaped damage, by falling on some grass, and was afterwards presented to Dr. Atterbury, bishop of Rochester. The manor of Halling, with the site of the palace, still remains part of the possessions of the bishopric of Rochester. In the reign of Edward VI., John Scory, bishop of Rochester, let a lease of this manor and palace, for ninety-nine years, to Robert Dean, esq. of Rochester, who soon afterwards removed hither. He left by his wife, daughter of Richard Woodward, a sole daughter and heir, Silvester, who, in 1573, married William Dalyson, esq.; and he, on her father's death, became entitled to his interest in this lease, and resided here till his decease. Subsequent to that period, she married William Lambarde, esq., the learned perambulator, who likewise resided here during her life; and at her death, in 1587, returned to his former residence at Greenwich; after which, her interest in this place devolved to her son by her first husband, Sir Maximilian Dalyson, who was of Halling, but his grandson, of the same name, marrying Frances, daughter of Thomas Stanley, esq. of West Peckham, removed thither, at which place this family resided. His descendant, William Dalyson, esq. of Hamptons, in West Peckham, became the lessee of this manor, with the site of the palace, and other appurtenances belonging thereto.

Langridge is a manor that was anciently possessed by a family of the name of Bavent, whence it was called for some time Langridge, otherwise *Bavents;* there is also a field yet called by the latter of those names, where the ruins of buildings were visible some years back, most probably vestiges of the ancient mansion of that family. Adam de Bavent, in the 13th of Edward I., obtained a grant of *free warren* for his lands at Halling, in which he was succeeded by Roger Bavent, and he, together with John de Langareche, who was witness to several deeds of land given to the bishop of Rochester, at this place, in the reign of Edward I., held three quarters of a knight's fee in Halling, of the bishop of Rochester. Roger Bavent and

John de Melford, possessed them in the 20th of King Edward III.; after which, the whole seems to have been lodged in the name of Melford, from which it was soon after sold to a Raynwell; one of whose descendants, as appears by the book of Aid in the Exchequer, alienated it, in the 17th of Henry VII., to Robert Watson, who immediately passed away his interest to Sir William Whorne, who had been lord mayor of London in 1487. From that family it was alienated to the Vane's, and thence again to the Barnewell's, who, about the beginning of the reign of Elizabeth, conveyed it by sale to Nicholas Leveson, or Lewson, esq. of Staffordshire, who was sheriff of London in 1534. He afterwards resided at Whorne's place, in the adjoining parish of Cookstone; and his desendant, Richard Leveson, was made a knight of the Bath at the coronation of Charles I., and succeeded to all his ancestors' estates at Halling, Cookstone, and elsewhere in this county, and was of Trentham, in Staffordshire. He alienated all his lands in this county to different persons; among which were these at Halling, to one Barber; in that name they continued after the restoration of Charles II., one of whose descendants alienated them to a Golding; whence, by a female heir, the property was carried in marriage to Robin Wood; and on his death, again by a second marriage, to Mr. William Baker, who ultimately possessed Langridge, and resided there.

HALLING is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is a small building, having a low spire at the west end.

Among other monuments and memorials are the following: *in the chancel,* a brass plate for John Collard, one of the clerks of the Exchequer, and Margery his wife. *In the nave,* a brass plate, with figures, for Silvester, daughter of Robert Dene, married to William Dalyson, esq., and afterwards to William Lambarde, esq., as before mentioned.

Gilbert de Glanvill, bishop of Rochester, about the year 1193, built an hospital at Strood, as previously observed, for the reception of poor travellers, &c., which he endowed, with the consent of the prior and convent of Rochester and his archdeacon, among other premises, with this church of Halling, and the portion arising from the tithes of his knights' fees in Halling,

Holeberge, and Kukelstan, to hold in free, pure, and perpetual alms. He also ordained, that the master of the hospital should provide a priest to minister, who should be presented to the bishop; and that neither he nor his church should be burdened with any pecuniary exaction, either by the bishop, archdeacon, dean, or any other, excepting synodals, due of ancient time; which gift was confirmed by Hubert archbishop of Canterbury, and by Edward III., in his 6th year.

In 1650 the vicarage of Halling was surveyed, and returned to be of the yearly value of £40 19, including the pension of £5 10, paid yearly to the vicar by the tenant of the parsonage. This vicarage was valued in the king's books at £7 13 4, the yearly tenths being 15s. 4d.; and in 1729 it was worth £72 per annum.

There was a FREE CHAPEL OR CHANTRY in this parish, dedicated to St. Laurence, which was suppressed by the Act passed in the reign of Edward VI., and the lands and revenues given to the king.

In 1821 there were fifty dwellings in the parish of Halling; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 203, females 143, making a total of 346 souls.

THE HUNDRED OF TOLTINGTROW.

This hundred is in some ancient records called *Toltetern* and *Tollentr*, and in Domesday record, *Tollentru*. In the return made of the knights' fees throughout England, in the 7th of Edward I., it appears that the archbishop of Canterbury ranked lord of this hundred.

On levying a fine of 40s. on every knight's fee, in the 20th Edward III., this hundred answered for four knights' fees and a half.

Toltingtrow contains these parishes within its bounds: Northfleet, Gravesend, Milton, Ifield, Nutsted, Meopham, and Luddesdon.

The parish of Northfleet lies about two miles from Gravesend, and is called *Norfluet* in Domesday, in the *Textus Roffensis*, Northfleata; the latter part of which name was acquired from its situation, close to the fleet or arm of the Thames, which flows hence southward, towards Southfleet; and the former, from its northern situation on this river, in respect to the above-mentioned parish of Southfleet.

This parish contains about 3000 acres, of which 100 are wood. It is considered by many to be unhealthy, from its contiguity to the marshes; but the chalk works, which employ a great number of hands, in some degree, purify the air. The soil is in general good for tillage; near the Thames it is chalky, the rest a stiff loam, interspersed with gravel. The north-west part of the parish is a low marsh frequently overflowed at high tides, which would inundate the high London road that crosses it, was there not a causeway raised to prevent the evil, at the termination of which is the stream or fleet rising at Spring head, in Southfleet, whence both these parishes derive their names. There is also a bridge here with floodgates, to prevent the tides flowing beyond, which would otherwise drown the marshes; and there is also a large tract above. This bridge was rebuilt

at the charge of the county in 1634, and subsequently rendered more commodious for travellers; hence the high road that crosses the northern part ascends the hill, eastward, to the uplands; and at about three quarters of a mile distant, is the village of Northfleet. Below the entrance of the same, on the banks of the Thames, is a hamlet called *Northfleet Hythe*, between which and the road is the seat called the Hive, late Mr. Wadman's. A small distance hence, the high road leaves its ancient course, which formerly continued straight through the town of Gravesend, to Rochester, till the encroachment of the chalk pits rendered it dangerous; when it was afterwards entirely dug away, so that turning more to the right, it passes through the village of Northfleet, built round a green, having the church and vicarage on its southern side. The scenery at Northfleet is extremely picturesque, and in some degree terrific, from the excavations made for the lime-works.

The church of Northfleet, dedicated to St. Botolph, is one of the largest in the diocese, and consists of a nave, with aisles and a chancel, with a low tower built within the site of the foundation walls of the former structure, but by no means correspondent with the other part of the edifice. Columns of an octagonal form, and extremely massy, spread off into pointed arches without the intervention of capitals, which separate the nave from the aisles. The chancel contains some remains of ancient oak stalls, and in the south wall are three stone seats. On the pavement of this church, upon a slab, is a full-lengthed brass figure of a priest, standing beneath a richly ornamented canopy, and round the edge is an imperfect inscription. Many years ago, the grave beneath was opened, when the body of Peter de Lucy, the rector, was found wrapped in leather.

There are many fragments of monuments as far back as the 14th century, with a fine marble tomb for Edward Brown, M.D., who resided at Ingress, and was physician to Charles II. Wombwell hall is situated in this parish, about a mile south-east of the church; there are also two other seats belonging to Jeremiah Rocher, esq. and William Gladdish, esq.

The chalk pits, above mentioned, extend here close to the northern side of the village, being about a quarter of a mile in width, to the shore of the Thames, the digging, manufacture, and exportation of which article, are of the greatest advantage

to this county, as from this spot, and the neighbourhood, not only London and the adjacent country, but even Holland and Flanders, are supplied either with lime, or chalk wherewith to make it. In addition to this, the rubbish of the chalk is bought, and conveyed away by lighters and hoys to the ports and creeks in the opposite county of Essex, and even to Suffolk and Norfolk, and sold there for manure. Thus this barren chalky soil contributes to make the strong clay land of those counties rich and fertile, and the mixture of earth forms a composition which, out of two otherwise barren extremes, compose one prolific medium.

There was anciently a market held here every Tuesday after Easter Tuesday, till Whit Tuesday, and three annual fairs.

Philipott says it was reported in his time, that the valley through which the stream or fleet flows, called by him Ebbs Fleet, was once covered with water, and being locked in on either side by hills, formed a secure road for shipping, which induced the Danes to make it a winter station for their navy.

Mr. Somner, and some others, have conjectured that the Roman station, called VAGNIACÆ, was situated at Northfleet, and it is most probable that it could not have been very distant from this spot, as near the spring head, in the parish of Southfleet, vast numbers of coins and the Roman milestone were discovered, while the remains of the ancient Roman road, towards Rochester, are still to be seen, of which opinion, among others, was Dr. Thorpe, of that place.

THE MANOR OF NORTHFLEET was part of the ancient possessions of the archbishop of Canterbury, and under the general title of that prelate's lands it was entered in Domesday. In the 2d of King John the archbishop had the grant of a fair at Northfleet.

In an ancient taxation of the archbishopric, in the Black Book of the archdeacon of Canterbury, this manor was valued at £107 11 3. It continued part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury till Archbishop Cranmer, under Henry VIII., conveyed it with the rectory, parsonage, and glebe, with the advowson of the vicarage, to that king, in exchange for other premises. Queen Elizabeth, in her 9th year, granted this manor, and the site thereof, to James Guildford, for thirty years; after which it was granted to Lord Wotton ; but it was again

vested in the crown, at the death of Charles I., A.D. 1648. The Parliament then passed an ordinance to place this property in the hands of trustees, that it might be sold to supply the necessities of the State, when this manor and appurtenances was accordingly conveyed to John Brown, with whom it remained till the Restoration in 1660, when, returning to the crown, it continued there till the 22d year of that reign. An Act then passed to enable the king to convey certain quit rents and feefarm rents, parcel of the revenues of the crown, to trustees, that they might be sold, and enable bodies corporate to purchase them, notwithstanding the statute of Mortmain. In consequence of this, the quit rents of the manor, amounting to upwards of £50 per annum, were soon after purchased by the dean and chapter of Rochester, part of whose revenues they still continue. But *the manor itself*, with the royalties appertaining thereto, still remained in the crown, and so continued till about the year 1758, when they were granted to William earl of Besborough, at the yearly feefarm rent of 6s. 8d. He, in 1760, conveyed them, together with Ingress, in the adjoining parish of Swanscombe, to John Calcraft, esq. the late possessor.

The principal part of the tenants of this manor hold in free socage, but there are a few copyholds.

WOMBWELL HALL, commonly called *Wimble hall*, is a seat in this parish, situated about a mile and a quarter southeastward from the church. It was built on part of the demesnes of an estate here, called Dundalls, and in old deeds and evidences, both Dernoale and Derendale, the name of a family which anciently possessed it. However, before the end of the reign of Edward III. it was in the possession of William Wangdeford, commonly called Wainford, whose son, William Wangdeford, was sergeant at law, and a good benefactor to Rochester bridge; as it is noted in the muniments of the same, that William Wainford gave and mortized to the stone bridge of Rochester, his place at London, in Cornhill, at the Shaft, to the value of twelve marks, above all the reprises. He succeeded his father in the inheritance of this estate, and, in the 15th of Henry VI., passed it away by sale to John and William Flucke, from whom it was shortly after purchased by John Rouse, descended from William Rouse, of Birling, in this county. He alienated his interest to Thomas Wombwell and John Clifton, esqrs., which

latter dying without issue in 1471, gave his share by will to the former, who by that means became possessed of the entire fee of Derndale.

The family was originally of Wombwell, in Yorkshire, when Thomas, above mentioned, having removed into Kent, in the reign of Edward IV., and being in possession of the whole of this estate, erected a seat thereon for his residence, which he called Wombwell hall.

This family bore for its arms, *Gules, a bend ermine, between six unicorns' heads, erased, argent,* which coat was confirmed to his descendant, William Wombwell, of Wombwell hall, in Northfleet, gent., by Clarencieux, in 1574. In his descendants the seat and estate continued down to Thomas Wombwell, who, in the reign of Charles I., alienated one moiety of the property, and Derndale, to Edward Adye, esq. counsellor at law, and the other moiety to Mrs. Leah de la Fortrye, daughter of Laurence des Bourveries, of Canterbury, and widow of Peter de la Fortrye, merchant of London, and of East Coombe in this county. He was youngest of the three sons of Nicholas de la Fortrye, of the city of Canterbury, son of John de la Fortrye, of Lisle, in Flanders, who fled to England on account of his religion, in 1567. The other two sons were John and Samuel, both eminent merchants in London; from the former of whom, by a female coheir, the earl of Radnor is descended, and from the latter the Fortrye's of Leicester; while through the female branch came the earls of Aylesford and Bathurst. The family of Fortrye bore for its arms, *Argent, three boars' heads erased, sable, armed of the first, langued, gules.* She left by her husband, Peter de la Fortrye, one son and two daughters, Leah, wife of Edward Adye, esq. above mentioned, and Susan, married to Peter Busteel, esq. At her death in 1659, she by will gave her moiety of Wombwell hall and Derndale to her son James Fortrye, esq., who removed from Coombe, in Greenwich, to this seat, and, having purchased the other moiety, as also Derndale, he rebuilt the house in 1663. He died possessed of both in 1674, leaving his wife Mary surviving, afterwards styled in the court roll, Lady Pitfield, otherwise Mary Fortrye, widow, three daughters, and one son, James Fortrye, esq., who succeeded him in this estate, and resided at Wombwell hall. He became a bencher of the Inner Temple, and died in 1727,

leaving by his second wife, Rosamond, one son and heir, James, and a daughter. James was of Wombwell hall, who married a daughter of Robert Chadwick, esq. of Northfleet, and died without issue in 1744, by will devising this seat, with Derndale, to his sister Mary in tail male, with remainder to Thomas Chiffinch, esq. of this parish. His niece and heir at law, Mary Comyns, on his death, entitled her husband, Francis Wadman, esq. to the possession of the same.

Ifield Court is a manor situated at the south-west boundary of this parish, within the hamlets of Ifield, Wells, and Cosington, which was anciently part of the estate of a family of that name; one of whom, Thomas de Ifield, died possessed of it in the 34th of Edward I., about which period William, son of Thomas de Ifield, with all his brothers and coheirs, granted to the monks of St. Andrew's, Rochester, all the tithe of Ifield, in pure and perpetual alms, which had been given to them by his ancestors. Soon after that period this estate became the property of the family of the Hever's, in which it continued in the 20th of Edward III., when the heirs of Thomas de Hever paid aid for it as half a knight's fee, which Robert de Hever formerly held in Ifield of the archbishop of Canterbury. It afterwards passed to the family of the Sympson's, of Sympson's place, in Bromley, one of whom, Robert, died possessed of it in the 11th of Edward IV. His heir alienated it to one Rikhill, from which name it passed in marriage with Rose, sole heir of John Rikhill, to John Lymsey, who, in the 1st of Richard III., conveyed it by sale to John Young, from whom it passed to another John Lymsey, who held it of the king by knight's service, as of his manor of Northfleet. He died possessed of Ifield, in the 38th of Henry VIII., and was succeeded by his son Edmund Lymsey, who alienated it to Sir John Rainsford, from whom it passed by sale to a Garth, who conveyed it, in the reign of Elizabeth, to one Child. His descendant, in the reign of Charles I., sold it to Benedict Garnet, or Garrard, and his heir, Edward Garrard, esq. possessed it in 1704, but his son dying a minor, his four daughters became entitled to this property. The eldest married Edward Browne, M.D. of Salisbury, the second espoused Dorington Egerton, esq., the third was united to Thomas Light, merchant, of London, and the fourth to George Hayter, esq. They, in 1766, joined in the sale of

this manor and estate to Mr. John Tilden, of this place, whose son, of the same name, afterwards possessed the property.

Near the banks of the Thames, at a small distance northward from the high London road, is a seat called the HIVE, corruptly for the *Hythe*, which was for many years in the possession of the family of the Chiffinch's, the last descendant of which bequeathed it to his niece Mary, daughter of his sister, Elizabeth Comyns, who married, in 1775, Francis Wadman, esq. (gentleman usher to the late princess Amelia,) who possessed the same in her right, and resided there.

THE CISTERTIAN ABBEY OF ST. MARY GRACES, near the Tower, was, in the reign of Richard II., possessed of a manor here then called LEUCHES, or MUICHES, which, at the period of its dissolution, under Henry VIII., was surrendered into the hands of the king, being then called LYNCHES, or MYNCHES, otherwise Abbot's lands, and was subsequently granted, successively for a term of years, to Sir Christopher Morris, Thomas Asteley, esq., and John Fowler, esq., but where it was situated, and who subsequently owned it, is now unknown.

The watermill, situated near the mouth of the Fleet, close to the river Thames, was part of the ancient possessions of the see of Canterbury, and included in that great deed of exchange made between Archbishop Cranmer and Henry VIII. It was afterwards used for making a composition of stucco for buildings.

NORTHFLEET is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and being a *peculiar* of the archbishop of Canterbury, is, as such, within the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church contains many monuments, in addition to those already mentioned, among which are the following: tombs for Margaret Baron, for William Hesilt, baron of the Exchequer, and for William Lye: memorials also for many of the name of Golty, and others for James Fortrye and Richard Davy. There are also mementoes for the families of the Chiffinch's and the Cricks's of Greenwich, as well as for William Wangdeford, and Sir William Rikhill. The steeple was rebuilt in 1717, and the church repaired and beautified in 1718.

In an ancient valuation of the churches in this diocese, taken the 15th of Edward I., the church of Northfleet is estimated at 100 marks.

The advowson of the vicarage of this church remained in the possession of the crown, being valued in the king's books at £21, and the yearly tenths amounting to £2 2 0.

In 1821 there were 351 dwellings in the parish of Northfleet; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 979, females 985, making a total of 1964 souls.

Adjoining Northfleet to the northeastward lies the town and parish of GRAVESEND, having the river Thames for its northern boundary. It is called in Domesday record *Gravesham*, and in the *Textus Roffensis*, GRAVESAENDE. Lambarde, as well as Leland, derive the name of this place from the Saxon word *gerefa*, a ruler, or portreve; in German, *greve;* hence Gravesend implies the limit or bound of such a rule or office, in Latin *Limes Prætorius*, and Leland, in his Itinerary, calls it *Greva*.

The parish of Gravesend lies on the north side of the London road, and is situated twenty-two miles from London, and eight from Rochester; the soil towards the west is chalky, southeastward much inclined to gravel, and round the town are some rich and fertile grounds. The town of Gravesend, with the church on the west side, lies on a descent towards the river Thames, which it bounds northward opposite to Tilbury fort in Essex. The western part lies in the parish of Gravesend, and the eastern in that of Milton; East street, and the east side of the High street of this place, being in the parish of Milton, and the West street, and the west side of the High street, in that of Gravesend. The town hall and market, the free school, and the ferry across the Thames to Tilbury, parcel of the manor of Paddock, or Parrocks, in Milton, were purchased in 1695, with that manor, by the corporation of Gravesend, in which they now continue vested.

The manor of Gravesend being in the possession of the abbot of St. Mary le Grace, of Tower hill, he obtained, in the reign of Richard II., a grant to the inhabitants of Gravesend and Milton, for the exclusive privilege of conveying passengers thence to London, on condition that they should provide boats on purpose, and carry all persons, either at two pence per head, with their *farthells*, or baggage, or the whole boat's fare should

Drawn by J. Fussell.

Engraved by J. Henshall.

GRAVESEND.

be four shillings. This charter has been confirmed by succeeding kings, and is still enjoyed under proper regulations. Most of the boats are now large and commodious, and the sum paid by each person is one shilling and sixpence. Five tilt boats, on a smaller scale, are licensed by the mayor. The whole sail regularly to and from London with every tide. The last improvement is the establishment of elegant steam vessels to and from London, which offer superior accommodations to the passengers, at one shilling and sixpence per head, in the fore cabin, and two shillings in the aft cabin. A ticket for the season, which will entitle the purchaser to go and return if he chooses, daily, costs only four guineas.

Queen Elizabeth, by her letters patent, in her 10th year, confirmed to the parishes of Gravesend and Milton the ancient privileges granted to them in the reign of Henry IV., and further incorporated these parishes by the name of *the portreve*, (which is now changed into that of mayor,) *jurats, and inhabitants of the parishes of Gravesend and Milton*, having justices possessing jurisdiction within the limits of the corporation. There are thirteen jurats, and twenty-four common councilmen, a recorder, high steward, chamberlain, town clerk, and sergeant at mace, in whom the government of the town is now vested. The most important of these offices are at present filled in the following manner: high steward, the Right Hon. the Earl of Darnley; mayor, Jeremiah Dennet, esq.; deputy mayor, William Eagle, esq.; recorder, Thomas Harris, esq.; town clerk, John Mathews, esq.; jurats, T. Johnson, C. Becket, Samuel Man, Jeremiah Dennet, John Millen, William Twiss, R. P. Cruden, W. Gladdish, J. Smith, William Eagle, Adam Park, John Bevan, and W. H. Styles; chamberlain, John Hales; common council, Thomas Bayley, Anthony Peck, John Hales, Robert Keddell, Charles Becket, Henry Ditchburn, William Bennett, Robert Arnold, Charles Troughton, William Gordon, John Heath, Robert Heathorn, William Peck, John Langton, Thomas Prall, and Josiah Hopwood. The remaining eight are not at present filled up.

The mayor is chosen yearly from among the jurats, and the chamberlain from the common council; freedoms are also granted at the same time to persons entering into business

within the precints of the Corporation, the expense of which freedom is £20.

The liberty of holding two additional markets has also been granted here, and four days' annual fair.

The jurisdiction of the lord mayor of London extends to Upnor Castle; and near the head of the Thames and Medway is an obelisk of granite, which points out the boundary of the port of London.

This town in general presents the appearance of a port, the streets nearest the water being by no means elegant, yet there are nevertheless many pleasing objects for observation, and the new buildings in the outskirts form a complete contrast. The vicinage, particularly round Milton, is beautifully variegated; great improvements are also projected on the western side, by the earl of Darnley, the ground being marked out for a number of villas, cottages, &c. to the number of 600, of the class adapted to such a watering place as Gravesend will no doubt shortly become. Parliament is now occupied in passing a bill for the improvement of the town quay, which certainly at present has little to recommend it. Many houses have already been purchased by the corporation, in order to be pulled down, whereby an extensive view of the High street will be seen from the water side. The new quay will be extended into the river, and rendered extremely commodious for travellers landing at this place. It is proposed by the Act of Parliament to raise £7000, for the accomplishment of these improvements, the repayment of which will be secured by a toll of 1d. on all passengers landing from or embarking in the packet boats.

This town produces very fine vegetables, particularly asparagus, and the gardens present a rich and luxuriant prospect. Gravesend supplies the outward-bound East and West Indiamen that rendezvous here, to make preparations for their final departure from the river. Shipbuilding and the manufacture of ropes and cables have also been carried on at this place in an inferior degree.

A field, to the left of Gravesend, was the site of the ancient church of that parish; but the inhabitants residing near the Thames, having found that the church was at a very inconvenient distance, obtained a licence from the official of the bishop

of Rochester, to build, at their own expense, a chapel or oratory, dedicated to St. George the Martyr.

The ancient church afterwards becoming delapidated, through neglect, was taken down, when the chapel of St. George became the parochial church, which was also destroyed by a fire, that happened in August, 1727. The present edifice, dedicated also to St. George, was built between the years 1731 and 1733, on the site of the former. Parliament granted £5000 towards its erection, to which George II. contributed £1000 more, and his queen £500. Mr. Sloane, the architect, contracted to complete this structure, with a gallery on the north side, in addition to the pews, for £3824. The first stone was laid by Sir Roger Meredith, M.P. for this county. The outside materials are of brick, with stone quoins and cornices. It is eighty feet in length, fifty in breadth, the height of the body twenty-six feet, and the tower eighty feet, round which, on a fascia, or string of Portland stone, is the following inscription, in Roman capitals :

HANC ÆDEM INCENDIO LUGUBRI DELETAM GEORGIUS 2D REX MUNIFICENTISSIMUS SENATUS CONSULTO INSTAURANDAM DECREVIT.

This church is extremely plain, and contains a handsome organ and loft, and in the front is the following inscription : "Mr. John Ison, late of this parish, bequeathed £400 for this organ and loft, erected in the year 1764." Another gallery was also built in this church, A.D. 1819. No person is permitted to be interred within this edifice. Some years back it was new roofed, which cost about £900.

In addition to the church are two other commodious places of worship in this town ; one for the Wesleyan methodists, and the other for a congregation of the Independent persuasion.

In 1764 a new town hall was erected by the corporation ; the structure is supported in the front by six Tuscan columns, and three arches at the back. The hall for public business is a spacious structure, and on the fascia in front is the following inscription. This building was erected A.D. 1764, John Delap, esq. mayor, C. Sloane architect." The upper or new market place, which has recently been erected at the expense of £3000, commences at a small distance from the rear of the town-hall, with a flight of steps, extending 200 feet in length. A colonnade runs through the whole extent on either side, supported

by pillars of granite, where the market people display their goods under cover. This market is most abundantly supplied, particularly on Saturdays, not only from all the neighbouring villages in Kent, but the opposite coast of Essex.

The *Custom House* and *Excise Office*, though situated in Milton, may be mentioned in speaking of the public buildings. They are handsome, and contiguous to the water side, near which is a battery, erected in 1778, which, though not very formidable, would make a considerable show if its embrasures were again bristled with cannon.

The gas works present a front of great taste and elegance, the style of the elevation being extremely chaste. These works, which supply both Gravesend and Milton with light, were established in 1824, the capital employed having been £5000, divided into 250 shares of £20 each. There is a neat theatre in this town, though it is not regularly frequented by any company of players. Balls occasionally take place in the long room for such inhabitants as are fond of the amusement of dancing.

The baths form the most prominent feature with the visitants of this part of the town, as the *Library* does in that of Milton, lately opened by Mr. Penny. Between these two establishments the votaries of health and pleasure are divided, and an agreeable lounge along the London road conducts from the one to the other. The library will be again spoken of under the head of Milton; we have now to describe the baths, which are very ably conducted by Mr. Ditchburn.

These baths are pleasantly situated on the west side of Gravesend, the proprietor having, at a considerable expense, so much increased the accommodation, that they may now be truly said to vie with any similar establishment in the kingdom. They consist of warm, cold, vapour, and shower, salt-water baths; the warm baths are constantly ready, and the machines may be used at any time of the tide.

The writer was given to understand, by the proprietor of this establishment, that he has it in contemplation to form plunging baths for the accommodation of such persons as delight in that mode of bathing.

Attached to the baths is a romantic site overhanging the river, which is formed into a beautiful pleasure-ground, luxuriantly diversified with trees, shrubs, and herbage; there are

Drawn by Geo. Shepherd

Engraved by H Adlard.

THE BATHS AT GRAVESEND.

also seats from which the company may enjoy a most enchanting prospect. The Thames, a mile broad at this spot, is constantly varying its burden of ships and vessels; beyond which appears a wide sweep of the coast of Essex, with Tilbury fort in the foreground, and the woody heights of Laindon in the distance. As to the vulgar error (for such it is,) that the water here is not *salt* enough to answer the purpose of bathing, the visitant need only take a mouthful of the fluid to be at once convinced to the contrary. To persons who require medical aid, it may be important to learn that Gravesend, in this particular, presents every convenience that can be desired.

Under the head of public accommodations it would be very disadvantageous to separate Gravesend from Milton, we shall therefore present the objects in both parishes, without noticing their division.

The principal inns are on the brink of the Thames, commanding the fine aquatic views for which the place is celebrated.

The Falcon Tavern is in East street; the Pope's Head, and Rum Puncheon, in West street; the Three Crowns constitutes the *Ferry House*, whence the boats start, which convey passengers to Tilbury, in Essex; while in High street is the White Hart Tavern. At the east end of the Terrace stands the Fountain Tavern; and at a small distance from the latter, close to the water-side, the Commercial Tavern. On the London road is the Prince of Orange, the Nelson, and the New Inn; the grounds of the last-mentioned house of entertainment contain a very fine bowling-green.

The *Boarding Houses* are as convenient and as well conducted as at any of the most fashionable watering places on the Kentish coast.

For excursions, either by land or water, every accommodation is in readiness; for the former there are horses, vehicles, and those indispensable animals at a watering place, donkies, all which may be had on the shortest notice. For water parties, no place possesses more ample means or attractions. Boats may be procured on the instant, when the visitor may be conveyed to any spot he chooses, on either of the opposite shores; he may also be rowed, or sail amidst the ever changing scene pre-

sented by the surface of the river, nor can he fail to meet with ample sources of aquatic enjoyment.

The vicinage of Gravesend to the metropolis, and the expeditious passage to and from the town to London, the excellent accommodations for sea bathing, the library and concert room, so spiritedly supported and ably conducted by Mr. Penny, combined with the improvements contemplated, and the variegated and picturesque beauties of the surrounding scenery, cannot fail to bring this spot, at no very distant period, into the highest repute as a watering place. As an inducement to visitors, Mr. Penny has issued a neatly embellished publication, containing an account of the town and surrounding country, in which Guide the stranger, at one glance, may acquire a knowledge of the various objects that present themselves to arrest his attention within the circuit of a few miles.

At the general survey of Domesday, Gravesend formed part of the possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was accordingly entered in that record.

On the disgrace of this prelate in 1083, it most probably reverted to the crown, soon after which it became parcel of the demesnes of the family of the Cramaville's, sometimes called for brevity *Cremille*. They held this place as one knight's fee, parcel of the fourteen and a quarter which made up the barony of Peverel, being part of the lands assigned to John de Fienes, and his assistants, for the defence of Dover castle, to which the tenant of Gravesend was bound to perform his ward three times in each year. Henry de Cramaville possessed the manor of Gravesend at his death in the 54th of Henry III., holding it of the king *in capite*, and was succeeded therein by his son Henry de Cramaville, who died possessed of the estate in the 26th of Edward I., as did Joan his wife in the 8th of Edward II.

After this the estate by some means fell to the crown, as it appears that Edward III., in his 4th year, granted it in *special tail* to Robert de Ufford, in consideration of his services, and that he might better support himself in the king's wars in Gascony. He was grandson of Robert de Ufford, younger son of John de Peyton, of Suffolk, having assumed his surname from the lordship of Ufford in that county. In the 11th of

the same reign he was in Parliament, solemnly advanced to the title and dignity of earl of Suffolk, and continually employed by that monarch both in his wars and important negotiations. In the 18th of Edward III. he was constituted admiral of the king's fleet, from the mouth of the Thames northward, and, in the 30th of the same prince, was present at the famous battle of Poictiers, where he acquired by his valour a great name. He was, in consequence, made knight of the Garter, next in succession to those who were called the founders of that order. He died in the 43d of the above reign, and was buried in the abbey of Campesse in Suffolk, having married Margaret, daughter of Sir Walter Norwich, of Suffolk, leaving William his only surviving son. His son afterwards conveyed the property by sale to Edward III., who by charter granted this manor, among others, to feoffees, for the endowment of his newly founded Cistertian abbey, called St. Mary Graces, near the Tower of London.

The manor of Gravesend remained part of the possessions of the above monastery till its final dissolution under Henry VIII., who, in his 31st year, granted, among other premises, his manor of Gravesend, with its appurtenances, in as ample a manner as it had been lately let to John Laurente, and his lands and tenements in Pykeaxelond, and others called the Ship in Gravesend and Mylton, all parcel of the possessions of that abbey, to Sir Christopher Morrice, or Morys, to hold for the term of his life, without any rent or account whatsoever. He died in the 38th of that reign, soon after which the king granted them to his widow, Elizabeth Morys, for her life. Upon her death, Edward VI., in his 5th year, devised them in ferme to his servant, Thomas Asteley, esq., for a term of years, and again, in his 7th year, to his servant John Fowler, one of the grooms of the privy chamber, and Anne his wife, to hold during their lives without any rent or account whatsoever. They continued in possession of the same individual in the 11th of Elizabeth, soon after which, Robert Dudley, earl of Leicester, younger son of John duke of Northumberland, possessed the fee of this manor, who, in the 23d of that reign, having obtained the queen's licence for the purpose, conveyed the property by sale to Thomas Gawdie and James Morice. In the 25th year of the same queen the sole right to this manor had become vested in Sir Thomas Gawdie, who had

then licence to alienate the property to William Brooke lord Cobham, whose eldest son and heir, Henry lord Cobham, being found guilty of treason under James I., upon his attainder the estate passed to the crown, when it was granted by that king to his kinsman, Esme Stuart duke of Lenox, in Scotland, afterwards created duke of Richmond. He died that year without issue, and was succeeded as duke of Lenox, and in this manor, by his brother, Esme Stuart, lord d'Aubigne, and earl of March, who, surviving his brother only twelve months, was succeeded in titles and estates by his eldest son James duke of Lenox, who was in 1641 created duke of Richmond. Upon his death in 1655, Esme his only son succeeded to his honours and this manor, but died, as before mentioned, an infant at Paris in 1660. Subsequently this manor of Gravesend passed in the same line of succession as Cobham hall down to the Right Hon. John earl of Darnley, the present possessor.

GRAVESEND is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester.

In 1821 there were 646 dwellings in the parish of Gravesend; and, at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 1796, females 2018, making a total of 3814 souls.

THE PARISH OF MILTON is divided by the High street from that of Gravesend. It is called in Domesday, and other ancient records, *Meletune*, and *Melustun*, and derives its name from its central distance between the parishes of Gravesend and Chalk. It is usually written *Milton Juxta*, or *near* Gravesend, to distinguish it from two other parishes of the same name in this county; Milton near Sittingbourne, and Milton near Canterbury.

This parish is small, its greatest length being one mile and a half from north to south, and in breadth about three quarters of a mile. It contains about 594 acres of land, according to recent accounts; but Mr. Hasted states it to comprise 1100 acres. It is very fertile, and the soil loamy, which changes gradually to sand as it approaches the south. The eastern part of the town of Gravesend is within this parish, the liberty of which corporation extends over the whole, and is incorporated

under the title of the mayor, jurats, and inhabitants of the parishes of Gravesend and Milton, as has been before mentioned under that parish. One of the bulwarks or platforms, built for the defence of the river by Henry VIII., and for which, William Burston, in that reign, conveyed to the king two pieces of land, called Chapel Field and Le Green, was anciently bound to contribute to the repairs of the ninth pier of Rochester bridge.

Building has of late years made great progress in Milton, most of the newly erected houses being extremely elegant. The rural aspect of this parish, and the beautiful views it commands, are great inducements to speculations of this description. One of the most delightful sites in the county, and we may say in the kingdom, is *Milton place*, whence the eye at once commands one of the finest tracts of country, combined with a grand and sublime assemblage of aquatic objects, that can be well imagined. The noble stretch of the river, called the HOPE, lies before the observer in its full extent; vessels of all sizes and nations continually crowding its surface, that present a scene incessantly variegated; and when a fleet of some hundred sail, as occasionally happens, passes in view, the *tout en semble* affords a prospect far exceeding the powers of description. On this delightful spot stand the baths, of which we have previously spoken.

PENNY'S LIBRARY, an institution formed about three years since, combines all the customary attractions found at the libraries of watering places; and it is but justice to add, that this establishment is conducted on the most complete and liberal plan. The circulating library and reading rooms are supplied with all the popular novels and standard works, together with newspapers, periodicals, &c.

In addition to the various evenings' amusements during the season, the temporary resident at Milton or Gravesend will find, at Mr. Penny's, ample provision against ennui, and obtain all the sources of mental occupation for those hours which are not devoted to excursions in the beautiful environs. The dwelling is large and most commodiously situated, handsomely furnished, and the principal part either let to a family for the season, or a longer period; visitors are also provided with board and lodging, at a moderate expense.

Another very attractive feature in Milton is the commanding

eminence, called *Windmill Hill*, deriving that name from the windmill standing on its summit. The surface of this eminence is wild and romantic, and the prospect it commands cannot well be surpassed. Pocock, in his History of Gravesend and Milton, thus describes it: "The hill, consisting of sand and gravel, commands one of the finest views in the kingdom, as from it may be seen Swanscomb, the place where the Kentish men opposed William the Conqueror, and obtained their privileges; over which appears Shooter's hill, sixteen miles distant; Hampstead and Highgate hills, twenty-six miles; the town of Grays, in Essex, near which stands the elegant mansion of Zachariah Button, esq., built in 1791; and to the north, on the summit, is the seat of Lord Petre; Laindon hill next rises majestically to our distant view, below which we see the villages of Chadwell and Tilbury; extending our eyes more to the eastward, we discover the town of Leigh, famous for its oyster fishery, and Southend. The shipping lying at the Nore, twenty miles distant, may be distinctly seen, and with heartfelt pleasure we see our commerce continually passing and repassing the noble winding stream in the vale below us, until we lose sight of them at Woolwich; from this hill we observe the telegraph on Gad's hill, noted by Shakspeare for the exploits of Falstaff and Henry. In the south-east, a long range of stately trees points out Cobham park, the residence of the ancient lords of Cobham, but now of the earl of Darnley, near which is the church of Cobham; to the south, we see the new erected mansion of Ifield court, and in the south-west we have a distant view of Knockholt Beeches, at the verge of the county of Kent. This delightful hill takes in not less than a circuitous view of 150 miles."

Milton church is approached by a short and agreeable walk from the east end of the town, a church having occupied the site at the time when the survey of Domesday was taken. The present edifice includes the basement of a former structure, as may be seen from the variety of the architecture, having been built most probably on the ruins of a preceding one, early in the 15th century. The tower, containing five bells, presents every appearance of having been erected about that period. The east window has been repaired and curtailed, and a doorway at the south-west angle walled up. The form of the roof has

also undergone considerable alterations, having originally been acutely pointed, as is perceptible, on the east side of the steeple. Considerable reparations of this structure have been lately executed in a neat and chaste style. The galleries and altarpiece, as we find by an inscription in the interior, were erected in 1819. This church is dedicated to Sts. Peter and Paul.

A curious sundial is affixed to the south porch of Milton church, a concise description of which may not prove unacceptable; on the top is this motto:

"Tarry not; your time's but short."

Under the motto are curve lines, forming conical sections, that run across the dial, called parallels, of the length of the day, being eleven in number; the uppermost is the Tropic of Capricorn, and marked at both ends with its proper character. The others immediately under are numbered 8, 9, 10, 11, that marked 12 being the Equinoctial line, having at one end the sign of Aries, and at the other, Libra. The remaining lines below are marked 13, 14, 15, 16, the lowermost line being the Tropic of of Cancer, also distinguished at both ends with its proper characters. By the shadow of a small ball, fixed on the stile called Nodus, the several lengths of the day are pointed out.

A gravestone in the north-west part of the churchyard presents the following simple memorial of the constructor of this ingenious dial:

Sacred to the Memory of
Mr. James Giles,
who departed this life
Dec. 9th, 1780,
Aged 61.

Milton, at the period when the survey of Domesday was taken, formed part of the immense possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux; under the general title of whose lands it was entered in that record.

On his disgrace, the manor of Milton devolved to the family of Montchensie, called in Latin *De Monte Canisio*. William, son of William de Montchensie, owned this manor in the 15th of King John, in which year he died without issue, when Warine de Monchensie, his kinsman, for a fine of 2000 marks, had livery of his whole inheritance. In the 37th of

Henry III. he obtained a charter of *free warren* for his manor of Milton, and died the following year, being then considered one of the most noble, prudent, and wealthy men in the kingdom.

This estate afterwards passed in the same manner as that of Hartley, by an heiress of this family, to Hugh de Vere and the families of Valence and Hastings, successively earls of Pembroke. Thence again to Reginald lord Grey, of Ruthin, for whose ransom, as before mentioned, this manor was sold, the purchaser being Sir Reginald Cobham, who died possessed of it in the 7th of Henry IV., leaving it to Isabel, his wife, who carried her interest herein, by a second marriage, to William Clifford, esq., who held it in her right in the 5th of Henry V. On her death it reverted to the heirs of her first husband, as it appears that John de Cobham became entitled to the estate on her demise; in which name it continued but a short time, as Robert de Poynings died possessed of the property in the 25th of Henry VI.

In the 5th of Edward IV., John Monesbye died holding it, soon after which it became the property of Robert Brent, whose son John held this manor by knight's service at his death in the 8th of Henry VII. His son William soon after alienated it to Sir Henry Wyatt, from whom it descended to his son Sir Thomas, who, in the 32d of Henry VIII., granted this manor and the advowson, to that monarch for ever, in exchange for other premises.

Edward VI., in his 5th year, in consideration of a fine of £20, granted to Catherine Martin, widow, the messuage called Milton place, late Figges, in this parish, and other parcels of land there, with the herbage and pasture called the *afterleage* of the town marsh in Milton, from the feast of St. Edward to the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin, all which were parcel of the possessions of Sir Thomas Wyatt, to hold for twenty-one years, at the annual rent of £20. Queen Elizabeth, in her 15th year, granted the manor of Milton in fee to George Tucker, at the yearly rent of £47 7 2, who was eldest of the three sons of William Tucker, esq. of Thornley, in Devonshire, and bore for his arms, *Azure, a chevron, or, between three sea horses, argent.* His grandson, George Tucker, esq., alienated it to Mr. Hamond, of Queenhithe, in London, in whose descendants it continued till Leonard Hamond, esq. of Horton

Kirkby, passed away his interest therein to Mr. Peter Moulson, of London, who rebuilt the court lodge, and greatly improved the grounds. He gave this manor by will to his only daughter and heir, then married to Mr. George Vaughan, of London, from whom it passed by sale to Michael Bedell, esq., who died in 1795.

Paddock, or Parrocks, is a manor in this parish, which had once owners of the same name, as is evident by an ancient record, which testifies that Robert de Parrock obtained a weekly market, and an annual fair for three days, in the 52d of Henry III. This family bore for its arms, *Ermine, a chief quarterly, or, and gules;* in the first quarter, *a chess rook, sable.* In the next reign of Edward I. this manor was in the possession of William de Clovil, who then held half a knight's fee in Paroke of Warine de Montchensie, after which it fell into the possession of the family of De Gravesend, one of whom, Stephen, bishop of London, died possessed of it in the 12th of Edward III. His kinsman, Sir Thomas de Gravesend, held it in the 20th of that reign, and died possessed of it in the 49th year of the same prince, soon after which it was purchased by that king, who by charter, in his 50th year, granted this manor, among others, to feoffees, for the endowing his newly founded Cistertian abbey, called St. Mary Graces, near the Tower of London. It was then conveyed for the like term of years as the manor of Gravesend, till Richard II., in his 22d year, granted it to the abbot and convent, in pure and perpetual alms for ever, when it remained part of the possessions of the above monastery, till its dissolution under Henry VIII. By that prince, Parrocks, with all appurtenances, was granted to Sir Christopher Morys, for life, and afterwards to his widow dame Elizabeth. Thomas Asteley had subsequently a term therein, granted by Edward VI., who again, in his 7th year, passed them to his servant, John Fowler, one of the grooms of the privy chamber, and Anne, his wife, for their lives.

The fee of this manor afterwards remained in the crown till the 13th of King James, when it was given to Mr. William Salter, who passed it by sale to Mr. James Crispe, from whom it went to Mr. John Child. His descendant Henry, in the 24th of Charles II., conveyed the house, and the largest part of the demesne lands in this parish, since called by the name of Lower

Parrocks, to Mr. John Coosens, and his descendant, Richard Coosens, esq. of Westminster, who died in 1779, leaving one sole daughter and heir, who possessed this estate. But the manor itself continued in the name of Child, till William Child, gent., in 1691, passed it away by sale to Richard Etkins, gent., whose son George, one of the jurats of the corporation of Gravesend and Milton, in 1695, conveyed it to trustees for the use of that corporation, in which trust it remained.

The town hall and market yard, the free school, the wharf or town quay, in the town of Gravesend, and the ferry across the Thames thence to Tilbury, in Essex, are parcels of this manor, and as such comprised in the above-mentioned trust, for the use of the corporation. There are also about thirty-three houses, mostly in East street, and the east side of the High street of the town of Gravesend, held of this manor. The court-baron is kept in the town hall above mentioned.

MILTON is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The church, previously mentioned, was in 1792 repaired and beautified, at the expense of £650. Among other monuments and inscriptions is a mural memento for Thomas Chiffinch, esq., one of the searchers at Gravesend in the reign of Charles II., obiit 1681.

Round the walls are painted the crests of the several kings of England, from Edward III. to James I. In the reign of Queen Anne, the rectory of Milton was valued at £100 per annum, and the church estimated in the king's books at £16 5 10, the yearly tenths being £1 12 7.

Aymer de Valence, earl of Pembroke, founded a CHANTRY in this parish, some time previous to the 15th of Edward II., and endowed it with all the lands and tenements in the hundreds of Berdestaple and Rocheforde, in Essex.

In 1821 there were 462 dwellings in the parish of Milton; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 1310, females 1459, making a total of 2769 souls.

Southward from Milton lies the small parish of IFIELD, called in ancient records *Yelesfelde*, and in the *Textus Roffensis Iuelda*.

The parish of Ifield contains nearly 300 acres of land, and is situated about a mile and a half southward from the high London road, and two and a half from Gravesend. The surface is rather flat, the soil in part poor and chalky, with a portion fertile, being a sandy hazel mould, or clay, upon the chalk. The air of this district is extremely healthy, the church standing alone near the southern boundary of the parish. It is a place little known, and would be less so was it not for the hamlet of Shinglewell street, anciently written Shanecemcewell, situated at the western boundary, adjoining Northfleet parish. Through this street the by-road leads to Rochester, Hever court being on the north side; and not far distant is a good mansion, for some years possessed by a family of the name of Parker, which bore for its arms, *Ermine, a stag's head caboshed, gules.* It so continued, till at length one of the line marrying the widow of Broadnax Brandon, esq., he at his death bequeathed this seat and estate to her. She afterwards married Mr. Cox, but leaving no issue by her two last husbands, gave the property by will to her son Philip by her first husband, son of William Broadnax Brandon, esq., by Anne, daughter of Sir William Broadnax, of Godmersham. He left by his wife above mentioned one son Philip, and a daughter Grace, married first to the Rev. Pierce Dixon, of Rochester, and secondly to Mr. Richard Hull. Mr. Philip Brandon some years afterwards conveyed the estate to Mr. Benjamin Hubble, who resided at Hever court.

The ancient Roman road appears very visible, directing its course through this street from Springhead, in Southfleet, in a direct line towards Cobham park and Rochesrer.

The manor, now called HEVER COURT, as appears by the inquisitions, taken in the 12th and 13th of King John, of the knights, and other services held of the king *in capite*, and returned by the several sheriffs to the king's treasurer, was then held by Hugo de Tokington as one knight's fee, of the archbishop of Canterbury. It then passed into the possession of the family of the Hever's, and was their first residence in this county, though Hever castle, near Tunbridge, became afterwards their capital mansion.

Of this family was William de Hever, a person of note, who attended King Richard I. to the siege of Ascalon, in Palestine. In the 7th of King John, Walter de Hever was one of the

Recognitores Magnæ Assisæ, or justices of the Great Assize. Richard de Hever stands named in the register of those who accompanied Edward I., in the 19th year of his reign, to Newcastle, where he summoned the claimants to the crown of Scotland to appear, and give an account of their pretensions.

Thomas de Hever, in the 4th of Edward III., obtained two fairs and a market to be held at Shinglewell, in this parish. From the family of Hever, this manor and seat obtained the name of Hever court, by which designation it has ever since been called.

In the reign of Edward III. this manor passed by two female heirs, Joan and Margaret, in marriage to Reginald Cobham, (a younger son of the Cobham's, of Cobham, in this county,) and Sir Oliver Brocas, one of whose descendants alienated his share therein to Reginald lord Cobham, of Sterborough, above mentioned, who then possessed the entire fee of the same. His son Reginald lord Cobham alienated the estate about the beginning of the reign of Henry VII. to one Rikhill, from which name it passed in marriage with Rose, sole heir of John Rikhill, to John Lymsey, whose descendant, Edward Lymsey, had possession granted of the estate in the 2d of Edward VI. He alienated it to Sir John Rainsford, from whom it passed by sale in the 7th year of that reign to one Garth, who, in the 40th of Elizabeth, sold this manor to John Barrow and Nicholas Child, gent., the former of whom, about two years afterwards, gave up his interest therein to the latter, who died possessed of it in 1638. His descendant, in 1644, conveyed it to Dame Frances, widow of Sir Thomas Burton, bart. of Leicestershire, who sold it in 1656 to Thomas Cripps, esq., and he, two months afterwards, conveyed it to Mrs. Leah de la Fortrye, widow of Peter de la Fortrye, of London. She by will devised it to her daughter, Susan, married to Mr. Peter Busteel, merchant, of London, on whose death, in 1692, Leah, her daughter, became possessed of one moiety of this manor, which she carried in marriage to Dr. Samuel Mills, of Crutched Friars, London. He left two daughters, one of whom carried this moiety in marriage to John Toke, esq. of Goddington, in this county, whose son and heir, Nicholas Toke, esq. having purchased the other moiety of this manor from Mr. Sish, a descendant of another daughter of Mrs. Susan Busteel, became possessed of the entire fee of HEVER

Court. He died in 1757, and was succeeded by his eldest son, John Toke, esq. late of Goddington.

Ifield is within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Rochester, and being a *peculiar* of the archbishop, is as such in the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church, which is the smallest in the diocese, is dedicated to St. Margaret, and consists of one aisle and a chancel. It was rebuilt in 1596, and again repaired and beautified in 1638.

In this church are the following inscriptions; in the aisle a memorial for Jane, wife of Edward Armstrong, gent. of this parish; a brass plate for Richard Parker, who was a special assistant in re-edifying this church in 1596; and another for Mrs. Elizabeth, widow of Major Robert Parker, obiit 1702. In the chancel appears a memorial for George Lander, rector of Ifield, obiit 1720; and within the railings another for Mr. Nicholas Child, gent., lord of this manor, at whose cost and charge chiefly this church was repaired and beautified; he died in 1638. In the east window are the arms of the Garrard's, with quarterings; *a crescent, gules,* being those of Sir John Garrard, lord mayor in the reign of Elizabeth.

This is a discharged living in the king's books of the clear yearly certified value of £26 10s., the annual tenths being 8s. 8½d. It is a rectory, having been in the patronage of Thomas Chiffinch, esq. of Northfleet; the rectory was afterwards augmented jointly with that of Northfleet.

In 1821 there were twelve dwellings in the parish of Ifield; and, at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 29, females 26, making a total of 55 souls.

Adjoining to the eastern boundary of Northfleet, southward, lies the parish of Nutsted, written in Domesday *Notestede,* and in the *Textus Roffensis,* Knutstede; it is now generally called *Nursted.* This parish contains nearly 1000 acres, and is about two miles in length, and one in breadth. It lies chiefly on high ground, and contains a variety of soils, comprising arable, orchard, and hop grounds, and some woodland; towards the north boundary, and next to Northfleet parish, it joins Meopham to the southward. The principal places in this parish

are Nursted court, Nursted Hill farm at the west end, Copthall at the east end, and some cottages; it is not much frequented, and consequently but little known.

At the general survey of Domesday, Nursted was part of the possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux; under the general title of whose lands it was entered in that record; and on his disgrace, in 1083, this place was most probably escheated to the crown. In the 13th of King John, Nursted was held as one knight's fee of the barony of Arsie, being part of those lands assigned for the defence of Dover castle, which were again held of the king by barony, as of his castle of Dover, to which the tenant of Nursted was bound to perform ward. Nursted subsequently went into the possession of the family of De Gravesend, one of whom, Sir Stephen, owned it in the 7th of Edward I., and in the 26th year of that reign, accompanied the king to the siege of Carlaverock, in Scotland, and was present at the taking of that strong fortress. Previous to the period in question, Richard de Gravesend, who was made bishop of London in 1280, appears to have possessed this manor, as he obtained a charter of *free warren* in the 27th year of that reign; he died at Fulham in 1303, and was buried in his own cathedral. He was succeeded by his nephew and heir, Stephen de Gravesend, who was also, in 1318, made bishop of London. He died possessed of it in the 12th of Edward III., when his kinsman, Sir Thomas de Gravesend, became his heir in this manor, and paid aid for it in the 20th of Edward III. as one knight's fee, which the bishop of London before held in Nursted.

Sir Thomas de Gravesend died in the 49th year of the above reign, but, it seems, he was not then possessed of the whole of this estate, for Sir John Beaumont, or *De Bello Monte*, as this family was called in Latin, had some share therein. After both those names became extinct, this manor passed into the possession of the Frowick's; in which name it continued till Thomas Frowick, by a fine levied in the 38th of Henry VI., conveyed it to Hugh Brent; in whose descendants it remained till the reign of Henry VII. It was then alienated to John Marten, whose descendant, William, dying without issue male, his two daughters and coheirs, Alice and Margaret, the former of whom married John Middleton, and the latter John Rogers, entitled their respective husbands to this manor. John Middleton alienated

his moiety to William Sedley, esq. of Southfleet, whose grandson, William Sedley, of the Friars, in Aylesford, was afterwards created a baronet in 1611. He purchased the other moiety of this manor, in the 20th of James I., of George Rogers, M.D., a descendant of John, before mentioned, and became possessed of the whole fee. His son, Sir John Sedley, bart., in 1631, conveyed this manor to the trustees of John Adye, esq. of Doddington, who died in 1660; and his grandson, James, son of Edward Adye, esq. of Barham, in this county, afterwards became entitled to the inheritance, but dying unmarried, he left his four sisters his coheirs; Susannah, married to Ruish Wentworth, esq.; Elizabeth, to William Hugesson, esq. of Provender, in Norton; Dorothy; and Rosamond, married to George Elcock, esq. of Barham; and on the partition of his estate among them, Elizabeth entitled her husband, William Hugesson, to this manor. He had by her three sons, William, who was of Provender; John, subsequently of Stodmarsh; and Edward.

William Hugesson, esq., by settlement, gave one moiety of this manor, with Nursted court and the advowson, to his wife, Elizabeth, who settled it on their youngest son, Edward; and he dying without issue and intestate, his moiety became vested in his two brothers, William and John, who were entitled, as heirs in gavelkind, to the other moiety of these premises. On the death of their father, the former, about the year 1731, conveyed his interest therein to his brother, John, who became thereby possessed of the entire fee of this manor, estate, and advowson.

John Hugesson, esq. of Stodmarsh court, by his second wife, Amy, had two sons, William, esq. of Stodmarsh, and John, since deceased; and two daughters, Amy and Elizabeth. He, together with Amy his wife, William and John his sons, and Amy and Elizabeth his two daughters, settled this estate, in 1759, on his second son, John, who, on the demise of his father, possessed it; and in 1767, conveyed the whole fee to William Edmeades, esq., the present possessor, who resides here. This ancient family bears for its arms, *Ermine, fess dancette, paly, or, and vert, between two horses' heads erased in chief, sable, and three arrows in base, one in pale surmounted by two in saltire, the pheons downwards, gold;* and for crest, *on a wreath*

of the colours, five arrows interlaced, or, surmounted by a crescent, sable.

The court house, previous to its recent alterations, presented many curious objects well worthy the attention of the antiquary. The principal features were two Gothic stone windows, of very ancient date, remarkable for their size and the elegance of the trefoil. The original hall is still strongly marked out by oaken pillars, of a size rarely to be met with in the present day, beautifully ornamented with vine leaves round the capitals, as well as the *dais*, or that portion of the baronial hall where stood the high table, elevated, by steps, above the rest of the compartments. This still retains its name, while the ruins, now extant, evidently formed that part of the baronial castle commonly called the Keep, and used either as a dungeon, or place of refuge, which, in feudal times, was indispensably necessary.

This manor has been modernized within the last five years, and scarcely any vestiges of its former superstructure remain; several coins of Edward I. have been found during late years. The whole parish, the greater part of which forms one estate, bears evidence to the fact of its having been in the hands of ecclesiastics, from the names attached to the several allotments, as Bishopsham, Priestfield, &c.

Adjoining to the court lodge, at the west end, were the remains of an old chapel.

NURSTED is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The church, which stands about a quarter of a mile southward from Nursted court, and dedicated to St. Mildred, is an ancient Gothic building, with rather a prominent tower, and forms a delightful object from several points of the surrounding country.

Among other monuments and memorials are the following: *in the chancel*, in the north wall, a monument, with the arms of Wentworth, *a mullet for difference, impaling Adye*, for Susan, wife of Ruish Wentworth, esq., sister of James Adye, of Barham, obt. 1681. An inscription for Richard Wentworth, esq., before mentioned, obt. 1686, leaving an only daughter and heir. A mural monument for John Adye, esq. of Doddington, who had by his first wife, daughter of Thomas Waller, esq. of Beaconsfield, three sons and four daughters; and by his second,

Mary, two sons and two daughters, obt. 1660; and an inscription for Nicholas Cragg, rector of this parish. Several of the monuments were fast mouldering to decay, but have been rescued from destruction, and restored, in some degree, to their former state, by the characteristic liberality of Earl Fitzwilliam, the present head of that noble family.

In an ancient valuation of the churches in this diocese, taken in the 15th of Edward I., the church of Nursted was valued at 100s. In the survey of ecclesiastical livings within this diocese, taken in 1650, it was returned that there was in this parish a parsonage presentative, worth £35 per annum; Mr. Adye, patron; and Mr. Jones, incumbent, placed there by the committee of plundered ministers. This rectory is a discharged living in the king's books, of the yearly value of £30, the annual tenths being 9s. 6d. The rectory has generally been annexed to the adjoining parish of Ifield, but now consolidated.

In 1821 there were six dwellings in the parish of Nursted; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 17, females 16, making a total of 33 souls.

MEOPHAM is the next parish southward from Nursted, sometimes called *Mepham*, and anciently written *Meapaham*.

MEOPHAM is situated about twenty-four miles from London, and nine from Dartford; it is rather a by-place, lying among the hills, and not much frequented, having no thoroughfare. It is a large parish, extending near five miles from north to south, and three from east to west. It lies mostly on high ground, though with continued hill and dale; the soils are various, much being poor and chalky, but in the vallies it is a heavy tillage land. The roads are stony, narrow, and bad; but the air, like the neighbouring hilly parishes, is very healthy. The village, with the church and court lodge, stand in the centre of the parish. In the southern parts there are several coppice woods, mostly beech and birch, interspersed with oak trees, which, in these parts, seldom grow to any size. There are many small hamlets in different parts, such as MELLAKER, HOOK GREEN, and CAMER, in the northern; and PITFIELD GREEN,

PRIESTWOOD, and CULVERSTONE GREEN, in the southern district. In the former, at Camer green, is a good modern house, built by Mr. George Master, whose son, George, likewise resided here. He died unmarried and without issue, leaving his sister, Catherine, married to Mr. Smith, of Croydon, in Surrey, his heir, who in her right possessed it. After his death, she removed to East Malling; her eldest son, George Smith, esq., married Rebecca, daughter of the Rev. Nicholas Brett, of Spring Grove, in Wye, who possessed this house, and resided here.

This parish was, among others, anciently bound to contribute to the repairs of the ninth pier of Rochester bridge.

Athelstane, king of England, gave the perpetual inheritance of Meopham to duke Eadulf, who, in 940, with the consent of the king, gave it to Christ church, in Canterbury, in the presence of Archbishop Wlfelm, free from all secular service and royal tribute, excepting the *trinoda necessitas*, of repelling invasions, and the repairs of castles and highways. Queen Ediva, mother of Kings Edmund and Edred, in 961, gave Meopham to Christ church, for the health of her soul, with the like privileges; whence it may be observed, that in the accounts of the donations of the Saxon kings, the same manors and places are frequently mentioned as having been given by several kings, which was occasioned by their continual dissentions, and contending against each other with various successes; one king taking away the possessions of the church, and another regranting them; wherefore it has been frequently found, that when one of these kings gave a small parcel of land in a parish or manor, in the Saxon codicils he stands recorded as having given the whole. Soon after, the possessions of the church were further increased, as one Birtrick, a rich and powerful man, who then resided here, devised, with the consent of Elfswithe his wife, his land at Meopham, by his last will and testament, (a most curious record of the customs of those times,) to Christ church, Canterbury, together with sixty marks of gold, (thirty to the bishop, and thirty to the convent,) and one necklace of twenty marks, and two cups of silver. The original is in the Saxon language, and inserted, with a Latin interpretation, both in Lambarde and the *Registrum Roffense;* and by Dr. Hickes, in his *Dissertatio Epistolaris*, at the end of his Thesaurus,

with his notes and remarks on the same. From this curious document the ancient form and phrases of a testament are known; and it may also be observed, that the husband and wife joined in making their testaments; that lands were devisable by testament in old times; and by what words estates of inheritance were wont to be created; that the lord's consent was considered necessary to the testament of the tenant, and that it was procured by the gift of a heriot, which, as Bracton says, was done at first, *Magis de gratia quam de jure;* and lastly, what weapons, jewels, and ornaments, were then worn and in use.

MEOPHAM remained among the possessions of Christ church at the consecration of Archbishop Lanfranc, in the 4th of William the Conqueror, who, when he separated the manors and lands belonging to his church, allotted this manor to the monks, for their subsistance, clothing, and other necessary uses; and it was accordingly entered in Domesday under the general title of land of the archbishop's monks.

Edward II., by his letters patent, granted to the prior and convent *free warren* for themselves and their successors, in all their demesne lands in Meopham; and Henry VI., in his 25th year, granted a market at Meopham, weekly, and one annual fair.

The manor of Meopham continued part of the possessions of Christ church till the dissolution, under Henry VIII., when being surrendered to the king, he soon after settled it on his new erected dean and chapter of Canterbury, part of whose possessions it remained. On the abolition of deans and chapters, after the death of Charles I., this manor, among others, was surveyed by order of the Parliament, and sold for the use of the state. On the Restoration, the reestablishment both of church and state ensuing, the deans and chapters resumed their former possessions; from which time, the site, court lodge, demesnes, and wood, above mentioned, passed, in successive leases, from the dean and chapter of Canterbury.

But the manor of Meopham itself, with the rents of assize, courts, law days, and other royalties appertaining thereto, still continued in their possession. There is a court-leet and court-baron held for this manor.

John Hastlelin, or Hasling, was tenant of the court lodge, with the demesnes, consisting of 650 acres; but after the restora-

tion of Charles II., it was in the name of Johnson. In 1724, it was owned by Mr. John Market, whose son rebuilt the court lodge, and resided there.

The manor of Dodmore lies in this parish, and was, in very early times, in the possession of the noble family of Huntingfield; Sir Peter was sheriff of the county in the reign of Edward I., and knighted by that prince at the siege of Carlaverock, in Scotland. He died in the reign of Edward II., and was succeeded by his son and heir, Sir Walter de Huntingfield, who, by a deed, without any date affixed, passed it by sale to John Smith; and he, in the 47th of Edward III., alienated his interest to Richard Idleigh, of Idleigh, in Ash, near Wrotham.

Who were the owners of Dodmore from that time to the reign of Henry VIII., we do not find; but it was then in the possession of Thomas Cavendish, esq., who had three sons and one daughter. Of the sons, William, the second, was ancestor to the present duke of Devonshire. He died possessed of this manor, under Henry VIII., when it was sold to Henry Taylor, from whom it descended to John, of the same name, who alienated it, in the reign of Elizabeth, to John Giffard, and he conveyed it to Walter Pownee, of Brenchley. After passing through many other names, it subsequently came into the possession of Mr. George Lattenden, of Friendsbury, who by will devised it to Mr. Thomas Elliot.

There is a court-baron held for this manor.

Dean court is an estate here, formerly part of the possessions of the great and opulent family of the Twitham's. Alan de Twitham attended Richard I. to the siege of Ascalon, in Palestine; and his descendant, Bertram, held this estate at his death, in the 3d of Edward III. Alanus de Twitham died possessed of it in the 25th year of that reign, as did his son, Theobald, in the 4th of Richard II. He died without issue male, leaving Maud, his only daughter, heir to his large possessions in this county, all which she carried in marriage to Simon Septvans, of Chequer, in Ash, by Sandwich, called, in ancient Latin deeds, *De Septem Vannis*. He had by her Sir William Septvans, whose son, John, left three sons; John, to whom he gave Hells, Twitham, Chilton, and Mollands, in Ash, with other lands in this county: Thomas, who had this estate

of Dean's court, with other lands: and Gilbert, who became entitled to the manor of Chequer, in Ash, from the possession of which property this family was for a period called At Chequer, as it was afterwards Harfleet, from some eminent service performed by Gilbert Septvans, otherwise At Chequer, at the town of that name, in Normandy, under Henry V.; which name of Harfleet became afterwards hereditary to all the descendants of this family, as well in a direct, as a collateral line.

Dean court continued in the descendants of Thomas Septvans, or Harfleet, till the reign of Charles I., when Thomas Harfleet conveyed it by sale to Francis Twysden, fifth son of Sir William Twysden, bart. of East Peckham, whose son, Sir Thomas, alienated Dean court and Ham to Samuel Atwood Clerk, who gave them by will to Elizabeth Hodsoll; as she did to her niece, married to Richard Gee, esq. of Orpington, who afterwards took the name of Carew, and possessed the same.

MEOPHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and being a *peculiar* of the archbishop, is within the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church, a large handsome building, with a square tower, is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. Among other memorials are the following, for Henry Haslin, George Courthope, John Folham, and a stone for Christopher Copland, vicar.

Simon Meopham, archbishop of Canterbury, was born here; he rebuilt this church, afterwards repaired by Archbishop Courtney, who annexed four almshouses to the same.

This vicarage was valued in the king's books at £16 3 4, the yearly tenths being £1 2 4.

In 1821, there were 111 dwellings in the parish of Meopham; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 433, females 400, making a total of 833 souls.

LUDDESDON, generally called *Luddesdown;* in the *Textus Roffensis*, written HLUDESDUNE; and in Domesday *Ledesdune;* derives its name from the two Saxon words, *leod*, populous, and *dune collis*, that is, the peopled hill, alluding to its situation in this hilly country.

LUDDESDON is a small parish, lying upon high ground, among the hills; it is about two miles in length from north to south, and not quite one in breadth; the soil poor, and very stony. There are two villages, one called Luddesdon Street, adjoining the northern bounds of the parish, near which is the estate called Little Buckland, and the hamlet of Sall Street; the other, called likewise Luddesdon, near the southern bounds, wherein stands the church, and not far distant the manor of South Buckland. It is but an obscure place, little frequented or known, and would have been less so, had it not been for the respectable school kept there many years ago by the Rev. Mr. Thornton, rector of this parish, which occasioned it to be the resort of most of the gentry of this part of the county, whose sons were educated there.

Luddesdon was part of the possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux, and entered as such in Domesday record; and on his disgrace, this estate was confiscated to the crown.

In the reign of Henry II., Richard Giffard appears to have held the manor of Luddesdon, then valued at £25, from which no service was due, (of the new feoffment, in the reign of King Stephen,) of Walter de Meduana, who held it again of the king *in capite*; which premises were held *in capite* of King Henry I., by Jeffry Talbot. The fees, said to be of the old feoffment, were such feoffments as had been made before the death of Henry I., the others being awarded afterwards. In the reign of King John, this place was in the possession of the family of Montchensie; William, son of William de Montchensie, who died in the 6th year of that prince, owned this manor at his death; in the 15th year of which reign, he died without issue, when Warine de Montchensie, for a fine of 2000 marks, had livery of his whole inheritance. In the 37th of Henry III., he obtained a charter of *free warren* for his manor of Luddesdon, among others, and died the year following, at which time he was reputed one of the most valiant, prudent, and wealthy men in the kingdom. He departed this life in the 17th year of that reign, leaving one daughter, Dionisia, who soon after married Hugh de Vere, third son of Robert de Vere, earl of Oxford, who, in the 25th year of the above reign, in consideration of his services in the French wars, had possession

granted of this manor, among others, of the inheritance of his wife.

His son, William de Montchensie, in the 8th of Edward I., had a grant in fee of view of frankpledge, and the courts belonging thereto, in all his lands. After which, it passed in like manner as the manors of Hartley, into the families of Valence and Hastings, successively earls of Pembroke, and thence to Reginald lord Grey, of Ruthin, who was found to be next of kin of the whole blood to John de Hastings, earl of Pembroke, who died without issue in the 13th of Richard II. However, being taken prisoner, as before mentioned, in Wales, by Owen Glendower, he was obliged to make over this manor to raise money to pay his ransom; when his trustees sold it to Thomas Montacute, earl of Salisbury, who, for his many noble acts and great achievements, had deservedly the regard of his country. He was undoubtedly one of the greatest heroes and generals of the age, whether we consider his extraordinary diligence in whatsoever he undertook, and his perseverance in pursuing, or quickness in executing, his designs. After a continued series of brave exploits and successes, he was ultimately slain at the siege of Orleans, in the 7th of Henry VI., to the great grief of the nation. He left by Eleanor, his first wife, daughter of Thomas earl of Kent, one sole daughter and heir, Alice, then wife of Richard Nevill, son of Ralph Nevill, earl of Westmoreland. By his will he ordered his body to be interred at Bisham abbey, with his ancestors, and bequeathed this manor of Luddesdon to John Montacute, his natural son, who alienated it in the 30th of Henry VI. to John Davy, gent., and he, some years after, conveyed it by sale to Edward Nevill, lord Abergavenny, fourth surviving son of Ralph earl of Westmoreland, by Joane, his second wife, daughter of John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster.

Edward lord Abergavenny had been summoned to Parliament in the reign of Henry VI., in consequence of his marriage with Elizabeth, sole daughter and heir of Richard Beauchamp lord Bergavenny, in whose right he possessed the castle and manor of Bergavenny. He died, in the 16th of Edward IV., possessed of this manor, which continued in his descendants till some ninety years back, when it was alienated by George lord Aber-

gavenny to William Brasier, whose descendant, Mr. Petit Brasier, gent., at his death in 1770, left it to his widow. She married Mr. Walter, and entitled him to the possession of the property; not long after which the right was transferred to Mr. John Hilliam, gent., whose widow ultimately possessed the same.

This estate, as a member of the manor of Swanscombe, parcel of the ancient barony of Montchensie, is held by the service of castle-guard to Rochester castle, which is now compounded for by a certain annual rent, paid to the lord of the manor of Swanscombe. A court-baron is held for this manor.

South Buckland is a manor in this parish, anciently called *Bocland*, no doubt from its tenure in the time of the Saxons, as there were only two sorts of land among the Saxons, namely, *bocland* and *folkland*; the former was hereditary, and possessed by the *Thanes*, or nobler sort; the latter, *terra vulgi*, who had no estate therein, but held the same by the agreement, or at the will of the lord or thane. It is now generally called *Great* or *South Buckland*, to distinguish it from an estate called Little Buckland, in this parish. The manor of Buckland, in the reign of King John, was held by Reginald de Luddesdon, who, in the 5th of that reign, was amerced 300 marks for a misdemeanor, relating to an impression of the king's seal.

In the reign of Edward I. it was held by William de Lodesden, of the heirs of Warine de Montchensie, as three parts of a knight's fee. He gave the whole tithe of the corn of his estate of Bocland to the nuns of Malling, in this county, in perpetual alms, at the time his daughter Joice took the veil, to whom he also gave one acre of land to build a barn for the receiving of their corn, which was afterwards confirmed by Richard and Hamo bishops of Rochester. In the above confirmation, Buckland is said to be *De feodo Thalebot*, this place being part of those fees which Galfridus Talebot held *in capite*, at the death of Henry I. This fee was afterwards, in the reign of Henry II., held in like manner of the king by Walter de Meduana, and again of him by William de Lodesdon.

After this family became extinct, the manor went into the

possession of owners, who thence took their names, one of which line, William de la Bocklande, confirmed the above gift of tithes to Malling abbey. His descendant, Reginald de Bocklande, died possessed of it at the beginning of the reign of Edward III., and his heirs paid aid for it in the 20th of that prince, as half a knight's fee, which he had formerly held in Luddesdon of the heirs of Warine de Montchensie. Sir Thomas de Buckland was possessed of this manor at the latter end of the above reign, from whom it descended to Thomas Buckland, who, in the reign of Henry VI., left an only daughter and heir Alice, who carried this estate, with Preston, in Shoreham, in marriage to John Polley, or Polhill, of Polhill street, in Detling. In that name it continued for many descents, until one of the family alienated it to a Walsingham, whose descendant, Mr. John Walsingham, conveyed it by sale to Thomas Whitaker, of Trottesclive, sheriff of this county in 1743, and he, at his death, devised it to his second son, Mr. John Whitaker, of Barming, in this county, whose nephew, Mr. Thomas Whitaker, of Watringbury, afterwards held the same. A court-baron is held for this manor.

LUDDESDON is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The church, which is small, is dedicated to Sts. Peter and Paul.

In the chancel is a mural monument, the arms being, *Argent, on a bend, gules, three escarbuncles of eight rays, or, impaling argent, three boars' heads, erected and erased, sable, langued, gules;* for Stephen Thornton, rector of this parish, obiit August 27, 1744. In the chancel south of that of the rector, over an altar monument, are two brass plates; on one the effigy of a man in armour, and on the other a shield, being two coats quarterly, first and fourth, *three lozenges in fess,* second and third, *an eagle displayed,* over all *a batton dexter.* This monument was no doubt erected for James or John Montacute, natural son of the earl of Salisbury, who bequeathed to him this manor of Luddesdon, as before observed.

It was anciently an appendage to the manor of Luddesdon, and so continued till one of the Lords Abergavenny alienated the property. It is now a rectory, the patronage of which was vested, in 1742, in Mr. Hall; in 1763 in Mr. John Tysoe, gent.

and subsequently in Edward Barrett, esq. There was also a chapel called Dowdes, adjoining this parish, now fallen to ruin, worth £20 per annum. These remains were visible some time back in a field belonging to Buckland farm, in this parish. The church was valued in the king's books at £11 11 3, the yearly tenths being £1 3 1½d.

In Mr. Meard's time the parsonage house was by some accident burned down, after which the present mansion was built.

In 1821 there were thirty-five dwellings in the parish of Luddesdon; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 125, females 110, making a total of 235 souls.

Drawn by Geo. Shepherd.

Engraved by H. Adlard.

ROCHESTER BRIDGE.

CITY AND LIBERTY OF ROCHESTER.

EASTWARD from Strood, on the opposite side of the river Medway, lies THE CITY OF ROCHESTER, situated on an angle of land formed by that river, which, coming from the south, runs northward until it has passed the city, after which it directs its course due east. The jurisdiction of this city was anciently called *the hundred of Rochester.*

ROCHESTER was a place of some note in the time of the Romans, owing to its situation at the accustomed pass over the river Medway. It was probably called by the Britons *Durobrivæ*, from the British word, *dour*, water, and the termination *briva*, which is added to the old names of many places, and might signify, among the ancient Britons and Gauls, a bridge or passage over a river; since it is no where used but in the names of places situated by rivers.

Antoninus, in his Itinerary, calls it by the name of *Durobrivis*, though it is corruptly spelt various ways in the different copies of that production. In the Peutingerian military tables, written on the decline of the Roman empire, it is written *Roibis*, from which contracted, and the addition of the word *ceaster*, derived from the Latin *castrum*, used by our Saxon ancestors to signify a city, town, or castle, they called it *Hroueceaster*, and, by a further contraction, *Rochester.* It may here be observed, that all places ending in *chester*, called so in the time of the Saxons, arose from the ruins of the old Roman *castra*, not that the former were always placed in the very same site, though they were never very remote from it. Hence the ancient stations about the noted Roman wall, the ruins of many of which are still visible, are called *chesters* by the country people. It was accounted, in the time of the Romans, one of their stipendiary cities, of which description they had twelve in this island.

Most of our antiquaries agree in allowing it to be the station mentioned by Antoninus, in his Itinerary, under the name of *Durobrivis*, situated twenty-seven miles from London. The

remains of the ancient Roman road, or Watling-street way, leading from London hither, is very visible from Shinglewell, by Cobham park pales, as before mentioned, towards Rochester, till it comes to the north gate of the park, where it runs into the thick coppice, and is there lost, after which there are no remains till we ascend Chatham hill, in the high road to Canterbury and Richborough.

Rochester was never very extensive, though much larger now than heretofore. In the time of the venerable Bede it was rather esteemed as a castle than a city, and accordingly he styles it the Castle of the Kentish men. The walls were built according to the four cardinal points, and from east to west about half a mile distant, but from north to south not a quarter of a mile; wherefore, having been originally so much circumscribed, it was in ancient grants called, as before mentioned, a castle only.

As there is no evidence of there having been a bridge at Rochester for many centuries after the Romans retired from Britain, it is most probable that a ferry was their mode of conveyance. Dr. Thorpe, an eminent physician and antiquary, who resided many years in this town, was inclined to believe that the first bridge between Rochester and Strood was erected in the reign of Edgar the Peaceable, but the reasons on which he founded this opinion are not known. It is certain, however, that there was a bridge before the Conquest, and that divers tracts of land were subjected to its support.

It appears from ancient manuscripts that this early bridge was of wood, and placed in the line of the principal streets of Rochester and Strood. From the depth of the water, its constant rapidity, the occasional roughness of the tides, and the shocks of large bodies of ice, the bridge required such frequent and heavy repairs, that the supporting of it became a great burden to the owners of the contributory lands. In the early part of the 14th century this structure was represented as being "dangerous for passengers, and nearly destroyed." Under these circumstances, with a laudable spirit of compassion and generosity, the great warriors, Sir Robert Knolles, and Sir John de Cobham, built, at their joint expense, the present bridge of stone.

In the 22d of Richard II. a patent was obtained, and after-

wards confirmed by Parliament, in the 9th of Henry V., for constituting the proprietors a body corporate, under the title of "wardens and commonalty;" and a licence was granted, enabling them to receive and hold in mortmain, lands and tenements to the value of £200 a year. The first and largest benefactor was Sir John Cobham, and his gift was followed by such considerable donations, that the estates, usually termed "proper," have been long adequate to the repairs of this bridge, without levying an assessment on the contributory lands. The governing members of the corporation are two wardens, and twelve assistants; and, in pursuance of the directions of several Acts of Parliament, the practice is on Friday, in the week after Easter, to elect in the bridge chamber, wardens and assistants for the year ensuing, to commence from the Monday in Whitsun week. Four of the assistants are appointed auditors of the accounts of the wardens of the preceding year, and Thursday in Whitsun week is the day fixed for their being settled.

The length of the bridge is 560 feet, with a stone parapet on either side, strongly coped, and surmounted by an iron railing. It has now eleven arches, supported by strong and substantial piers, which are properly secured on each side by sterlings. The river has a considerable fall through these arches.

Under the very able management of these wardens for several years past, the estates proper have been duly attended to, and the increased revenue well applied. The transit of carriages before and after passing the bridge is still inconvenient, though the entrances on both sides were much improved some years back, particularly the street at Rochester, which was widened by the removal of some houses. The inhabitants have it in contemplation to erect a new bridge over the Medway, at a short distance from the present fabric.

The *Bridge Chamber*, or *Record Room*, which stands opposite to the east end of the bridge, is a neat building of Portland stone, with a portico beneath, occupying the site of the western porch of a chapel, or chantry, that was founded by the great baron, John de Cobham, at the time of the building of the bridge. He designed it principally for the use of travellers, and appointed three chaplains to officiate therein, with a yearly salary of £6 each, payable from the revenues of the bridge estates, who were to pray for the souls of the founder and his

lady, of Sir Knolles, and his lady, and the other benefactors to the bridge.

In 1225 the great ditch about this city is reported to have been begun, and in 1284 Solomon de Roffa had the king's licence to build about and on the walls of Rochester, and to hold the buildings in fee.

The city has no gates at present, but the names of several are on record, viz. Broadgate, afterwards called Eastgate, which stood in the High street, a great part having remained in the reign of Henry VIII., when Leland wrote, by whom it is styled a marvellous strong gate, who adds that no more gates appeared than were commonly used. Southgate was near Bully hill, on the road to St. Margaret's, the arch of which was taken down in 1770. There was another gate, as appears by the *Registrum Roffense*, called Childegate, which seems to have been in the north wall of the city, leading to the marshes, that part of the wall being called from it Childegate wall, and the lane in which it stood, opposite the college gate, Childegate lane. In the *Textus Roffensis* there is also mention made of a gate beyond the bridge.

We have no further account of Rochester, though it was undoubtedly a Roman station, as well as a stipendiary city, till after the rise of the Saxon heptarchy, when it became more distinguished; for King Ethelbert, having embraced the Christian religion in 507, built the church of St. Andrew's, and made it a bishop's see, by which he raised this city from obscurity, giving it a distinguished place in ecclesiastical and civil history.

Rochester, from its situation at the most accustomed passage over the river Medway, has been subject to more misfortunes than perhaps any other city. In 676, Ethelred, king of Mercia, having invaded Kent, destroyed the town, and returned with great plunder to his own kingdom.

During the Danish wars in England, Rochester frequently suffered from the inhumanity of those barbarians, being often besieged and plundered, the enemy in general committing unheard-of cruelties before they returned to their ships. Terrified and exhausted with these misfortunes, the inhabitants at length submitted, with the rest of the nation, to the yoke of those invaders; in which state it continued, without any parti-

cular circumstance happening, till the Norman Conquest in 1066, when it yielded to the Conqueror, on the same terms as the rest of the nation. This place suffered several times dreadfully by fire, in the reigns of Henry I. and II., from which calamities it recovered but slowly, and the intestine commotions of the kingdom occurring soon after, Rochester again suffered; but, Henry III. gaining possession of the place, and knowing that its preservation would be of considerable advantage, resolved to augment its strength, for which purpose he repaired and restored the walls to their former condition, and began the large ditch round the city.

As Rochester lies in the direct and most frequented passage from the continent to London, it would be superfluous to recount the numbers of royal and illustrious persons who have continually visited and passed through this city. We shall therefore subjoin only the following:

Queen Elizabeth, on her return from a progress she had made round the coasts of Sussex and Kent, in 1573, took up her abode in this city for five days; on the last of which she honoured Mr. Watts with her company, at his house, on Bully hill. The day after her arrival she was present at divine service, and heard a sermon in the cathedral.

James I., together with the king of Denmark, was also here in 1606.

King Charles II., on his restoration, was received in this city with the greatest demonstrations of joy, and presented with a silver basin and ewer by the mayor and corporation.

James II. was likewise received here on his abdication.

Rochester, in the time of Edward the Confessor, was in the king's hands; but William the Conqueror gave it, with the castle, to Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in the record of Domesday. On his disgrace, in 1083, this town, with the rest of his possessions, was confiscated to the crown.

Henry I. let the city to farm at pleasure, to the townsmen, at the yearly rent of £20; and granted to Bishop Gundulph and the church of Rochester one annual fair.

Henry II., by charter, granted also to the citizens of Rochester the city in fee, for £20 per annum, with sundry liberties and customs, therein mentioned.

Richard I. commanded, by writ to the bailiff and hundred of Rochester, that no person, except his servants, should purchase any victuals in the city, till after the monks of St. Andrew's priory had procured their supplies, to the great disgust and inconvenience of every other inhabitant.

Before the city was granted to the burgesses in feefarm, they accounted for a certain payment, called *Maltolt*, which they received from all persons passing through the city to embark for the holy land; but Richard I. abolished the toll.

Henry III. confirmed the charter of Henry II., and granted many privileges, with a free market within their city, and the return of all writs whatsoever.

Rochester was afterwards in the hands of the king, where it remained in the reign of Edward I., who committed it to John de Cobham, to hold of him and his heirs in ferme, for his life, at the same yearly rental.

Edward III. by charter, in his 4th year, confirmed to the citizens of Rochester the charter of King Henry III.; as did Richard II., in his 1st year.

Henry VI. granted several liberties and privileges to this city.

Edward IV. by charter, in 1460, finding this city defensible and fit for the resistance of enemies, confirmed the former charters, and granted to the citizens, that instead of a bailiff, they should be called the *mayor* and *citizens* of the city of Rochester, and under such title to purchase, plead, and be impleaded; and that a coroner and two constables should be chosen. The present seal of this corporation represents St. Andrew on his cross on one side, and the castle of Rochester on the other; round the former, *Sigillum Commune Civitatis Roffensis;* and surrounding the latter, *Sigillum Civium Roffensis;* it appears to be very ancient. The armorial bearings of this city are, *Or, a cross gules, with an R in the centre; on the chief of the second, a lion passant, guardant, or.*

All charters and privileges were confirmed by Henry VIII., and his several successors, down to Charles I., who by charter, in 1630, ratified and confirmed that of Edward IV., and all others granted to this city; and upon petition of the mayor and citizens, touching the bounds of the place, they were then further explained and designated. By this last charter the present corporation was made to consist of a mayor; twelve

Drawn by H.Gastineau.

Engraved by H.Adlard.

ROCHESTER CASTLE.

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aldermen, of which number the mayor was one; twelve assistants or common council; a recorder and town clerk; two chamberlains; a principal sergeant at mace; a water bailiff; and other inferior officers. The day of election for mayor is on the Monday before the feast of St. Matthew, annually; and the day of swearing him into office on the Monday next after the feast of St. Michael; the recorder to be chosen by the mayor and aldermen, and to take an oath of office. The mayor and two aldermen to hold a court of Portmore from fifteen days to fifteen days; and lastly, the mayor, recorder, eldest aldermen, and last mayor for the time being, to be justices of the peace within the limits of the corporation. In the reign of George III., an Act passed for recovery of small debts in Rochester, and some adjoining parishes.

Much inconvenience having arisen in consequence of the different coinage of money in divers parts, King John, in his 9th year, issued his writ for all moneyers and assayers, and among others, those of Rochester, to appear at Westminster, and bring with them all their dies, sealed up with their seals.

King Stephen, in 1149, suppressed most of the mints which had been set up during the troubles of his reign, but reinstated the archbishops of Canterbury and York, and some other ecclesiastics, in the privilege of a mint; yet it does not seem that the bishop of this see was ever restored to his, or that, if so, he did not use the privilege, as no money has ever been met with coined by him.

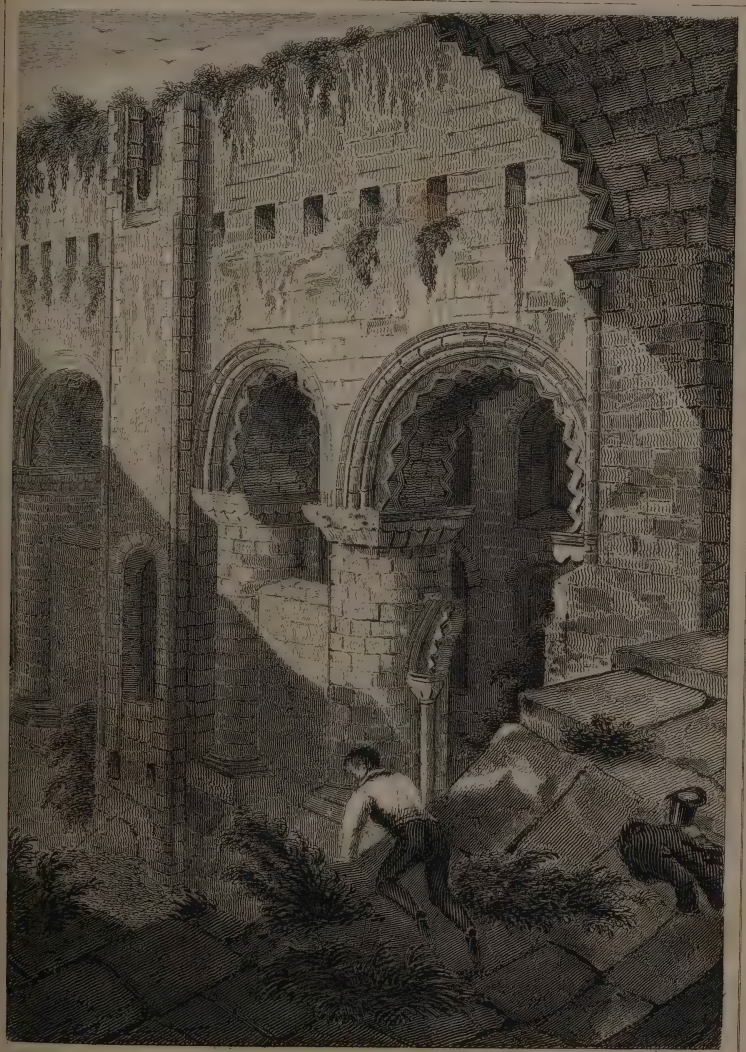
The state of Rochester, in the reign of Elizabeth, may partly be ascertained by the return to an order made by that princess, in her 8th year, for a general survey; by which it appears, there were 144 inhabited houses, seven ships and boats, a mayor, alderman, customer, comptroller, and a searcher of the custom house, four quays, and that there were many persons employed in merchandize and fishing.

The venerable ruins of the castle, with its lofty keep, bearing a distant resemblance to the White Tower of London, present an object that must attract the notice of every traveller. The situation of this structure was very favorable for defence, standing at the south-west angle of the city, on an eminence rising abruptly from the Medway, that river preserving it from any attack on the west; while its southeasterly prospect and north

sides were surrounded by a broad and deep ditch. The outside walls, which formed a parallelogram of more than 300 feet in length, were fortified by several round and square towers, but these, with the walls, are fast verging to a state of complete dilapidation. At the south-east angle of the area, stands the keep, or master tower, of which there are considerable remains.

After the Romans conquered this island, it is very evident they had a station at Rochester, and the height of the ground upon which the castle stands, and its situation with respect to the Medway, and also the ancient road leading over the river, denote this hill to have been the most likely spot for this fortress. The great variety of Roman coins dug up within this district confirms this supposition. There are so few accounts in early history respecting this castle, that it would be nugatory to search for remains of the buildings, or attempt to ascertain what kind of military works might have been here in the time of the Saxons. When the Danes besieged Rochester, in 885, there must have been a citadel of importance, the inhabitants having been enabled to resist their attacks till they were relieved by Alfred. William the Conqueror is supposed by some to have erected a new castle; by others it is believed that he only enlarged what belonged to the Saxons. It could not have been a very strong hold, for when in possession of Odo bishop of Bayeux, who had revolted in the beginning of the reign of William Rufus, it was soon reduced; and it is very probable that the king, not finding it so defensive a post as his father had imagined, resolved upon constructing an entire new edifice. Gundulph bishop of Rochester, who had been employed by William to superintend the building of the White Tower of London, agreed, after some hesitation, to become the architect. That the keep or great tower was erected by this celebrated prelate, is little doubted, and it has hitherto been always called by his name.

The skill and ingenuity exercised in the construction of this edifice are particularly worthy of notice, in the ingenious contrivances that secured the entrance. There was a passage through a smaller tower into the keep, after ascending a flight of steps that were carried partly round two of the fronts of the castle, and descended on the first landing place by a strong arch, under which hung a massy gate and a drawbridge. The



Drawn by W. Bartlett.

Engraved by Winkles.

INTERIOR OF ROCHESTER CASTLE.

KENT.

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entrance into the vestibule of the small tower had likewise a strong gate and portcullis; and at the portal of the great tower, there was also another gate and portcullis. This latter tower is seventy feet square at the base, and the walls in general are about twelve feet thick. The apartments of the keep are separated by a wall from top to bottom. In this partition wall were several arches, by which a communication was opened from one room to the other; there was also a well in the centre of the wall, by which every floor was supplied with water; its diameter is two feet nine inches. On the north side of the keep, is a descent by steps into a vault under the entrance tower, used as a prison. In the north-east angle is a winding staircase, which ascends from the bottom to the top of the tower; the ascent is not difficult, though the steps have fallen to decay. In the south-east angle is another staircase, winding to the top of the tower, having also communication with every room. There were no windows on the ground floor, and very few loop holes, and those extremely small; their structure was such, that a firebrand thrown in could do very little mischief, because, when dropped, it must have fallen directly under the arch, through which each loophole was approached from within; nor could an arrow strike an individual, except he was accidentally at the loophole. The apartments of state were on the second floor; the rooms, twenty-eight feet high, separated by cylindrical columns, which supported four round arches, richly ornamented with zigzag mouldings. Ascending to the next floor, about midway, was a narrow arched passage or gallery, in the main wall, quite round the tower, presenting the remains of an arch, which appears to shew the ancient vestige of a chapel. The whole edifice rises to the height of 104 feet, having at the summit a battlement five feet high, with embrasures. After the introduction of artillery, this was no longer a defensible fortress, and the apartments being dark and dreary, alike unfit for a dignified modern residence. It was, nevertheless, preserved in a habitable condition till the reign of James I., since which it has been gradually sinking to unregarded decay.

Several towers were built in the angles and sides of the castle walls. There appears, in particular, to have been a large one at the north angle, which was a great security to the bridge; near this tower is a long opening in the wall from the bottom

to the top, supposed to have been used for the secret conveyance of necessaries from the river into the castle. In the south-east angle of the wall there was another tower, which, from the number of loopholes, seems to have been designed to annoy an enemy who had succeeded in an attack upon the south gate of the city. At a little distance are steps of descent to Bully, or Boley hill; and while the castle was in force, there possibly might have been a postern gate to this part of the outwarks.

From the many urns and lachrymatories found on Boley hill, there is no doubt but it was a burial place of the Romans, when stationed at Rochester. It is supposed, and with great probability, by several historians, that the mound on the south side was cast up by the Danes, when they besieged the city in 885.

Henry I., in his 27th year, granted, with the consent of his barons, to the church of Canterbury, William archbishop of that see, and his successors, the custody of the castle of Rochester, for ever, with liberty to build a fort and tower. In the next reign of King Stephen, the archbishop having sworn allegiance to the Empress Matilda, the castle was taken possession of by the friends of the king; and it is most probable that William de Ipre, earl of Kent, had the custody of the same, for when Robert earl of Gloucest r, natural son of Henry I., was taken prisoner at Winchester, and given in charge to the earl of Kent, he was by him sent close prisoner to this fortress. Henry de Ipre being banished the kingdom, Henry II. gave the earldom of Kent, and the castle of Rochester, to Philip earl of Flanders, but the young king dying, the earl never possessed himself of either.

King John, in his 3d year, is said to have restored this castle to Hubert archbishop of Canterbury, with whom it continued till the 17th year of his reign, when the king required of him, by writ, its restoration; and notwithstanding the archbishop's acquiescence with those demands, the discontented barons contrived to gain possession of the place, and committed it to the custody of William de Albini, a valiant and expert commander; when the king marched thither, invested the castle, and carried on a vigorous siege for the space of three months, upon which, the governor finding no hope of relief, the outward walls being thrown down and their provisions exhausted, surrendered

at discretion. The following year, Louis, son of the king of France, being invited over to the assistance of the barons, landed at Sandwich, marched hither with his army, and invested the castle, which having previously suffered so considerably, was soon reduced. In the 10th of Henry III., Hubert de Burgh was constable of Rochester castle; and in the 42d year of the same reign, Nicholas de Moels was made sheriff of Kent, and governor of the castles of Rochester and Canterbury.

In 1264, being the 49th year of the same king, he greatly increased the fortifications at Rochester castle, and committed it to the custody of Roger de Leyborne as chief constable, when it was furnished with men, arms, and provisions, sufficient to sustain a siege. Shortly after, Simon earl of Leicester, one of the confederated barons, marched with a numerous army into Kent, to besiege this castle, who, on arriving at the western banks of the Medway, found his passage over the bridge disputed, and a pallisade and breastwork thrown up on the opposite side, well defended. Wherefore, having sent Gilbert de Clare to attack the south side of the town, the earl in person assaulted the bridge, but was twice repulsed by the citizens; at length, with the assistance of vessels loaded with combustibles, he set fire to the bridge and tower thereon, both of wood; when, during the confusion thereby caused, he passed the river, and attacked the besieged with such vigor, that he entered the place, destroyed the church and what was left of the priory; Roger de Leyborne having before burnt down all the suburbs, as also part of that edifice. After this, the earl made a furious assault on the castle, and became master of every part, except the great tower, which was so bravely defended by the constable, that after seven days' close siege, being nearly taken, the earl suddenly raised the siege, and returned to London.

In the 2d of Edward I. Robert de Hougham died constable of this castle, and the year following Robert de Septvans had custody of the same. Sir John de Cobham was also constable in the middle of the above reign, and in the 33d of the same prince, A.D. 1304, Stephen de Dene was constable of Rochester castle.

In the 3d of Edward III. William Skarlett was constable; in the 18th of the same monarch Sir John Cobham filled that post; in the 33d of the above reign John lord Grey, of Codnor,

was made constable of the town and castle of Rochester, for life; and John de Newtrun was constable in the 2d of Richard II. In the 2d of Henry V. William Criol, or Keriel, died governor of this castle, in which office he was succeeded by Sir Thomas Cobham, who held it at his death in the 11th of Edward IV., when he repaired the walls of the fortress and city, which seem to have been the last repairs they ever underwent. In the next century the castle became of little importance; the chief part was suffered to fall to ruins, in which state it still remains. Some years ago the materials of the great tower were offered for sale, but the charge of separating and pulling down the stonework was so heavy, that no person would undertake it upon any terms.

The property, or fee-simple of the castle of Rochester, after the reign of Edward IV., vested among the manors of the crown, till James I., in his 10th year, granted them, with all the services belonging thereto, to Sir Anthony Weldon, since which the whole has continued in the same line of ownership as that of Swanscombe manor, to Robert Child, esq., who died in 1782, when his widow, under the will of her husband, possessed it. She afterwards married Francis lord Ducie, and died in 1793, when it remained vested in trustees under the will of Mr. Child.

Large parcels of land are held of the castle of Rochester, the tenure of which is perfect castle-guard. On St. Andrew's day, (old style,) a banner used to be hung out at the residence of the receiver of the rents, and every tenant who did not then discharge his proper rent, was liable to have the amount doubled on the return of every tide of the river, so long as it should remain unliquidated. The services of castle guard have been long since converted into annual rents of money.

Within the last twelve months considerable improvements have taken place in the environs of the venerable tower of Rochester castle, which were effected by a public subscription of £700, the residue of the sum required to complete this desirable purpose having been furnished by the munificence of Samuel Baker, esq., the present proprietor. The whole circuit of the keep now presents a beautiful garden, most tastefully laid out in serpentine walks, and a luxuriant shrubbery, for the accommodation of the inhabitants of the city of Rochester.

Although there is no mention of A BRIDGE at Rochester till the reign of Henry I., it certainly appears, from ancient manuscripts, such a structure did exist, as Ernulphus, bishop of Rochester, in the 16th year of that reign, who collected the records contained in the *Textus Roffensis*, has inserted several regulations for the repairs of Rochester bridge, apparently as ancient customs in his days.

Lambarde, in his Perambulations, has given us three extracts from manuscripts, concerning this bridge; one from an ancient record in Christ church, Canterbury, and the others in the Saxon and Latin tongues, from the *Textus Roffensis*, before mentioned.

These records do not much differ from each other; they contain a curious account of the bridge, the number of its piers, the materials with which it was built, and the method whereby it was kept in repair.

It thence appears that the ancient bridge was composed of wood, and consisted of nine piers, which made ten intermediate spaces in the length of the bridge, and from one end to the other was about twenty-six rods and a half, equal to 431 feet, which correspond nearly to the present breadth of the river, where this bridge stood, in a direct line with the High street of Rochester, and that of Strood.

The owners of the manors and lands chargeable with the repairs of this bridge, were used, by ancient custom, to elect two men from among themselves, to be wardens or overseers of the repairs, at which time there was a wooden tower erected on the bridge, with strong gates, probably near the east end, used as a fortification for the defence of the place.

The first mention of this structure in our English historians appears in Stow's Annals, who writes that when King John, in the 17th of his reign, besieged and took Rochester castle, he attempted to burn the bridge, but Robert Fitzwalter put out the fire, and saved the fabric.

In 1281 a sudden thaw swept several of the piers away, and considerably damaged the rest, in which state the bridge continued in 1292, when it was so broken and out of repair, that the people were obliged to pass the river in boats.

After being continually repaired, in 1347 this bridge was found to be too old, and badly constructed for the depth of the

river, and the rapidity of the stream, when it was resolved that a new fabric should be erected of stone, which noble and useful work, as before observed, was completed about the 15th of Richard II., by Sir Robert Knolles and Sir John de Cobham.

The passage over Rochester bridge, as originally constructed, was extremely narrow, subsequent reparations having enlarged it by the widths now appropriated on either side for foot passengers. The space at present occupied by the arch in the centre, formerly consisted of two small arches, the central passage in question having been completed about nine or ten years back, thus affording much greater facilities for traffic above the bridge, as formerly nothing but very small craft could pass to and fro.

The foundation of the see of Rochester is ascribed to Ethelbert, king of Kent, who was persuaded to perform this pious action by Augustine, styled the apostle of Britain, and first Archbishop of Canterbury. The same monarch erected a cathedral church here, and conferred the episcopal dignity on Justus, a prelate of eminent talent and moral worth, in 604. The edifice erected by this munificent monarch was not of long duration, as a new church was erected by Gundulph, promoted to this diocese in 1077, who continued therein till his death, which happened in March 1107. It is doubtful whether he had completed the buildings at the time of his decease, but there are several parts of the present fabric unquestionably of his construction; the beautiful west door has been attributed to him, and the style of its sculpture shows it could not be the work of a much later period. It has a semicircular arch, agreeable to the early Norman style, with several members, unfortunately much mutilated, containing a great variety of ornaments. Beneath the crown is the figure of our Saviour, sitting on a throne, with a book open in his left hand, resting on his knee, the right hand raised in the attitude of blessing; but the hand is broken off, as likewise the head, though the nimbus, or glory, is discernible. On either side is an angel, with the symbols of the Evangelists. On the north side of the door is the statue of King Henry I., and on the south that of Matilda his queen. Henry was present at the dedication of this cathedral by Archbishop Corboil, on May 11, 1130, and afterwards a benefactor to the neighbouring priory; Bishop Gundulph had been con-

fessor to that queen. In a niche of the west front of the north-west tower of the nave, is a very ancient episcopal figure, standing upon a shrine, designed, as it is supposed, for Gundulph. In 1763 the old tower was taken down; the statue was an ornament of that tower, but placed in the north side, facing the gate of entrance from the city into the precincts. The cathedral is entered by a descent of several steps, and its dimensions are as follow: from the west door, to the steps leading up to the choir, 150 feet, and thence to the east wall of the chancel, 156 feet; total, 306 feet. The east transept is in length, from north to south, 90 feet.

In the original plan of Gundulph's church there was a tower over the steps leading up to the choir, whereon was afterwards raised a low octagonal spire, which, being in danger of falling, was rebuilt under the direction of Mr. Sloane, architect to the dean and chapter in 1749. There are six bells in the tower, and its height is 156 feet.

The choir was raised from the offerings at the tomb of William, a charitable Scotch baker, who was, by some crafty monk, converted into a martyr and saint; because, while travelling towards the Holy Land, he was unfortunately robbed and murdered by his servant, near Rochester. From the entrance of the choir to the eastern extremity, the style of the building has a uniform character, and presents a curious specimen of the early English, or pointed mode of architecture. In 1742 and 1743, very considerable alterations were made in the choir, under the direction of Mr. Sloane; new pews erected, the partition walls wainscoted, and the pavement laid with Bremen and Portland stone; the choir was new furnished, and the episcopal throne erected. The altar-piece, of Norway oak, is plain and neat. £50 were given towards ornamenting this part of the church, by Dr. Herring, archbishop of Canterbury, who was many years dean of this cathedral. There was then only a panel of wainscot in the middle, in which was fixed a large piece of rich velvet in a frame, elegantly carved and gilt. This was removed some years ago, and the altar-piece is now decorated with a picture of the angels appearing to the shepherds, by Mr. West. There are three elegant stone seats adjoining the south wall of the chancel, similar stalls still subsisting in the chancels of many parochial, as well as cathedral and

collegate churches, which were doubtless for the convenience of ecclesiastics of high rank, used by the officiating clergy during the celebration of mass. In the front of the stalls are three shields of arms; on the first, those of the see of Rochester; the centre, the arms of Christ church, Canterbury; while it is supposed that the third shield is emblazoned with the arms of the prior and convent of St. Andrew, who was tutelar saint of Rochester cathedral.

At the east end of this structure are numerous ancient monuments, among which the following require notice: a stone chest, with a figure in pontifical robes, assigned to Bishop Laurence de St. Martin, who died in 1274; a shrine-like monument, supposed to be that of Gilbert de Glanville, who died in 1214; the tomb of Bishop Thomas de Inglethorp, who died May 12, 1291, though it is a matter of doubt whether he might not be deposited in a more eastern cenotaph. At the foot of the steps leading to the communion-table are two large slabs, having formerly had brasses, representing the figure of a bishop under a rich canopy; a similar gravestone appears near the great west door, and two more in the south transept of the nave. There is a chapel called after St. Edmund, behind the south wall of the choir, though the altar erected to his honour was fixed in the undercroft.

In 1826, when some reparations were effecting in the choir, was discovered the figure of Bishop Walter de Shepey, who flourished early in the 13th century, the face and robes being coloured, and as brilliant as if issued that moment from the hands of the limner. This effigy is now carefully preserved, and forms one of the most curious objects in the choir of Rochester cathedral.

There was a common passage through the chapel, for the monks, from the north cloister into the church, and the arch of the door of communication is still discernible. In the partition wall of the choir is a stone chest, and upon it a figure of Purbeck marble, pontifically habited, lying under a canopy, curiously ornamented, and terminating pyramidically. The head is entirely gone, and in its place is a flat stone. In the left hand is part of a crosier, only the fore finger of the right hand remaining, holding, to all appearance, a book. It is supposed to be the tomb of Bishop Bradfield, who died April 23,

1283. The conjecture is, that there was originally a south aisle of the same width with that on the north side of the choir, and that the wall might have been continued to the east transept. Traces of such a wall appear by the steps into the undercroft, and in what now serves for the minor canon's vestry.

Against the south wall is a stone chest, raised about a foot above the pavement, and another of the same size was removed some years back. They had antique crosses upon them, and appeared to have been forced open. It has been said that the persons, who, about the year 1645, defaced and pillaged the tombs in this church, found in one of these coffins a crucifix and a ring.

In the south transept is a richly ornamented door-case, forming the entrance into the present chapter-house, used for a library, but formerly the grand door of communication between the church and chapter-house of the priory in solemn processions. The moulding of the arch of entrance into the north cloister is still to be seen, supposed to have been executed about the 14th century. This elegant piece of sculpture had been much defaced, and injudiciously covered with whitewash that disguises its beauties. The royal figures on each side, supported by bustos, like those on the sides of the great west door, are intended to represent Henry I. and Matilda his queen; the scroll in the king's right hand having a reference to his new grants, and Acts of confirmation of former rights and privileges; and the church in his left, to his being present at the dedication of the cathedral. The queen holds a book, or scroll, in her hand. Above, on either side, are two figures, seated in episcopal habits, supposed to represent Gundulph, Ernulph, Laurence de St. Martin, and Hamo de Hethe.

The north-east transept was formerly separated from the choir by a screen of wood, with Gothic arches. The northern part of this transept used to be visited by devotees without number, before the Reformation, because St. William, from whom it derived its appellation, was enshrined therein. The tomb ascribed to him consists of a large coffin, of Petworth marble, and adjoins the north wall, near a door leading up to an apartment over the east end, called the Treasury. The middle window, at the shrine of St. William, was given by Hubert de Burgh, jus-

ticiary of England in the reign of Henry III. The window thus described, is said not to be either of the central windows now extant, but a window that was under them. The stone frame may be seen in the wall without the church. To the west of the shrine is a monument to the memory of Walter de Merton, founder of the college at Oxford, which bears his name: he died October 27, 1277, being drowned in passing a river, of the depth of which he was unfortunately unawares. He is the earliest prelate of the see of Rochester, whose place of burial can be accurately ascertained by his tomb. The original monument was constructed at Limoges, in France, where the art of enamelling chiefly flourished, then a common mode of ornamenting sumptuous tombs. The expense of constructing it, and the carriage from Limoges to Rochester, was £67 14 6. This tomb was almost entirely destroyed at the Reformation, and a new and elegant monument erected in 1598, at the expense of the master and fellows of Merton College. It was repaired in 1662, and cleaned and beautified in 1772, by the same learned body. From this prelate the chapel has acquired the appellation of Merton chapel. Opposite is a monument in memory of Bishop Lowe, who died September 30, 1467. It is still in good preservation, and the oldest monument in the church with a legible inscription. At the west end, within a shield held up by an angel, are the family arms of the bishop, empaled with the arms of the see of Rochester, placed on the sinister side. At the east end of the chapel, to the north, is a beautiful tomb of white and black marble, in memory of Bishop Warner, who died in 1666, having been the last prelate of the see interred in this cathedral. His munificent endowment of Bromley college, for the support of twenty widows of clergymen, is the most honourable memorial entailed on the name of this prelate.

From this chapel is a descent into the north aisle by several steps, much worn; a proof of the great resort to the shrine of St. William. Against the wall of the choir is an altar tomb, placed under a low canopied arch, and above, a mutilated angel, holding a scroll. It has been assigned to Bishop Haymo de Hethe, who died in 1352. When the north transept of the nave was building, it was termed the New Work towards St. William's gate. This gate was placed opposite the north door,

through which was an entrance into the High street, where anciently stood the gate of the priory.

We cannot quit our notice of this cathedral without observing that the west front and nave are entitled to deliberate examination. In those parts of the structure we contemplate august specimens of the Anglo-Norman style of architecture, practised by one of the most able builders of the 11th century. The semicircular and stately arches, the ponderous columns, and the general simplicity of design, act as a fine school of information for the student of architectural antiquities. The sculptured effigies, which adorn the pillars of the great west door, are instances unparalleled of the application of the Norman chisel to the representation of statues, not emblematical of scriptural character, and yet free from grotesque or indelicate allusions.

From the foundation of the priory of Rochester to its dissolution, under Henry VIII., there were forty priors, of whom, *Ordowinus* was the first, having been appointed to witness the charter of its foundation on the 20th of September, 1089. The last prior was *Walter Boxley;* Henry VIII., in his 31st year, having granted a commission to the archbishop of Canterbury, George lord Cobham, and others, to receive the surrender of this priory; which instrument was dated the 8th of April, 1540.

Walter Boxley, the last prior, as above mentioned, on the surrender, was, by the foundation charter of the new dean and chapter, under date June 18, in the 33d of Henry VIII., appointed *first dean* by his family name of *Phillips*. Any person who assumed the monastic habit under the Catholic *regime*, was accustomed to take the name of his birthplace, and Boxley having been that of *Walter Phillips*, he had been so denominated by the monks of the priory; he died A.D. 1570.

The priory of Rochester was valued at £486 11 5, yearly income, the whole of which devolved to the king, who founded the cathedral church within the precincts of this priory. In the 33d of Henry VIII. that monarch granted his *dotation charter*, sealed on the 20th of June following. On the 4th of July, the king granted a commission, to George lord Cobham, and others, setting forth that he had lately founded the cathedral church, in the site and place of the late priory at Rochester, and gave them authority to repair thither immediately, and, as they should think fit, allot the whole, and assign to the dean

and canons separate stalls in the choir, with lodgments, tables, &c. By the above charter, Henry VIII. reserved to himself and his successors the right of nominating the dean and prebendaries.

We have now to remark that, after the Dissolution, the site of the priory became a scene of devastation and confusion; the buildings were large, irregular, and ruinous, and even a century after, in the great rebellion, A.D. 1647, they were reported as being in a decayed state, at which time the church does not appear to have been much better, as Archbishop Laud, in his return of the state of this diocese, in 1633, says "that the cathedral suffered much for want of glass in the windows." About nine years afterwards it was considerably injured in consequence of the fury of the rebel soldiers, under Colonel Sandys, who, having plundered the edifice, broke every thing in pieces, made use of the structure as a drinking house, having also converted the body of the church to the purposes of a carpenter's shop.

After the Restoration, dean Hardy took infinite pains to have the whole restored, which was effected by means of the benefactions of the gentry of the county, together with £7000 added by the dean and chapter. Notwithstanding this, time and neglect had so corroded the building, that the possibility of its preservation was much feared; every endeavour was, nevertheless, used to secure it from ruin, the exterior was repaired, and the inside beautified, and, being now kept extremely clean, the fabric presents a very beautiful appearance.

The great tower of this cathedral, with the east and west windows, and the south-west end, have all been recently rebuilt or cased by — Codrington, esq., the architect of Great Queen street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, in a style suited to the rest of this venerable ecclesiastical structure.

At the south-west corner of the precincts of the cathedral, bishop Gundulph separated a portion of ground, as a habitation for himself and successors, and though there is no mention of a palace for near eighty years after his death, we have good reason for believing that he built one at the time he re-edified the church and priory. In what situation it remained till the time of bishop Lowe, we have not discovered, but he appears to have rebuilt it, one of his instruments being dated from his

new palace, at Rochester, A.D. 1459. Whether the building was not sufficiently substantial, or had been neglected, does not appear; it seems, however, to have been a cold and comfortless habitation, for when bishop Fisher resided here, in 1524, Erasmus, of Rotterdam, in his letters of that year, complains of the bishop's want of attention to his health, by residing at this palace; adding that it was composed of such thin walls, the air found entrance through every crevice, and that it was neither wainscoted nor floored, having only a brick pavement. Bishop Fisher was the last learned prelate who resided here; and after the Reformation which soon followed, not only this mansion, but those belonging to the see at Halling and Trottesclive, were let for terms of years, and forsaken; the palace at Bromley, in Kent, being a pleasanter spot, and more convenient for the bishops of this see. The building, now existing on the site of the palace at Rochester, was erected about the middle of the 17th century, and by the bishop leased out to tenants. The bishop's court for the trial of civil causes, and a prison, were in the west quarter of the palace precincts. No debtors have been confined here for many years, the practice of the court not being sufficient to defray the expenses of supporting the jurisdiction. Bishop Pearce, in 1760, erected a Register's office, in what used to be the Gaoler's garden. At a very short distance from Minor Canon row, on the right side, is a small embattled tower, through which was the entrance into the cloister of the priory. Contiguous were the refectory and dormitory, and other offices, which were taken down at the Dissolution. Part of the wall of the cloister is still standing, which, together with the remains of the Chapter-house, exhibit a beautiful series of Norman arches and ornaments, though now greatly mutilated.

THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER is the smallest of any in this kingdom, the whole being situated in the western division of the county. It has one archdeacon, and contains ninety-nine parishes, included in the deaneries of Rochester, Malling, and Dartford.

The deanery of Shoreham, though properly indeed within this diocese, being a peculiar of the archbishop, is subject to his immediate jurisdiction.

This bishopric is not only distinguished from almost every

other in the kingdom by the narrowness of its district, but the slenderness of its revenues. Before the Conquest, the salary was not a sufficient maintenance for the bishops, who were often compelled to retire, for part of the year, to some of their palaces in the county, with a few domestics; nor could they afford to attend the Parliament or Council at any distance from London.

In bishop Fisher's time, the income of this see amounted only to £300; and in the king's books it was valued at £358 4 9½. In 1559, the clear annual profits did not exceed £207 per annum; and we believe that at present the rental of the episcopal see of Rochester is not productive of more than £600 per annum.

THE OYSTER FISHERY upon this river, carried on in the several creeks and branches within the liberties of the city of Rochester, for the conducting of which there is a *company of Free Dredgermen* established by prescription, time out of mind, is subject to the government and authority of the mayor and citizens.

Several persons having disputed this authority, great inconveniences arose, and the fishery was consequently endangered; to prevent this, the corporation and dredgermen petitioned Parliament for relief, in the 2d of George II., when an Act passed for the better ordering and governing this fishery, for rendering them secure under the protection of the mayor and citizens, and confirming and settling their power and jurisdiction over that and the free dredgers belonging thereto. By the Act in question, the mayor and citizens have power, once, or oftener, in every year, to hold a *court of Admiralty*, to which the dredgers are summoned, and a jury is appointed from among them, which possesses the power to make rules and orders for the times when the oyster-grounds shall be opened and shut, (the former of which is generally on St. James's day,) and the quantity of oysters which shall be taken on each day of dredging, and also for the preservation of the brood and spat of oysters. Every person is free of this company who has served an apprenticeship of seven years; but every person catching oysters in this river, not free of the fishery, is termed a *cable hanger*, and liable to such penalty as the mayor and citizens shall think fit to impose.

The town hall of Rochester stands on the north side of the High street, and was erected in 1687; it is a handsome brick building, supported by duplicated columns of stone, of the Doric order; and the area beneath was paved with Purbeck stone, at the expense of Sir Stafford Fairborne, in 1706. The entrance into the hall is by a spacious staircase, the ceiling of which is richly ornamented, as is also that of the hall, with trophies of war, fruits, and flowers; the upper end is adorned with full-length portraits of William III. and Queen Anne, by Sir Godfrey Kneller. At the lower end are portraits of Sir Cloudesley Shovel, Sir John Jennings, Sir Thomas Colby, Sir Joseph Williamson, and Mr. Watts. Here are also portraits of Sir John Lake, Sir Thomas Palmer, and Sir Stafford Fairborne, all by the best masters of that age. The public business concerning the government of the city is transacted here, and the judges have frequently held the assizes for the county in this edifice. The clock-house was erected by Sir Cloudesley Shovel, in 1706.

At a small distance eastward, and directly opposite the college gate, is ancient Cheldegate lane, so named from a gate placed there. Near the spot on which the pump stands, in the main street, was anciently the corn cross; at a little distance on the left, is the custom-house; attached to which is the house appointed for the reception of six poor travellers. The following inscription, placed over the door, shews the design of this charity: "Richard Watts, esq. by his will, dated August 22, 1570, founded this charity for six poor travellers, who not being *rogues* or *proctors*, may receive, gratis, for one night, lodging, entertainment, and four pence each." In testimony of which munificence, and in honour of his memory, Nathaniel Hood, esq., mayor, caused this stone to be renewed and inscribed, A.D. 1711. For the support of this charity, Mr. Watts left an estate, then valued at no more than £36 per annum, which now produces a yearly income of upwards of £1000. By his will he ordered, that what surplus remained after defraying the expenses of the establishment, should be given to the poor of Rochester. In consequence of which, it is paid to the overseers and churchwardens in such proportions, as the court of Chancery has decreed.

At no great distance, on the same side of the street, is the

free school, founded by Sir Joseph Williamson, secretary of state in the reign of Charles II.

At this end of the High street stood the East gate. By the charter of Edward IV. a licence was given to the mayor and citizens to build upon the same, for the use and profit of the city, new houses, both of stone and wood; part of which remained when the houses were erected opposite the free school; the spacious street without the gate hence acquired its name. A legacy being left about the year 1529, towards the repairs of a bridge of wood, in East gate, it seems that the tide must have occasionally flowed across this street. A new road, leading to Canterbury, opens to view at the bottom of the street, whence are beautiful prospects of the Medway, the ordnance-office, the dockyard, the guard ships, and those lying in ordinary.

St. Catherine's hospital was founded by Simon Potyn, master of the Crown Inn, in 1316, for the support of leprous and diseased persons; it is now the habitation of twelve poor individuals, who have separate rooms, being found in coals and candles, and also receiving an annual stipend.

The inhabitants of Rochester, actuated by a spirit of emulation, highly redounding to their credit, have it in contemplation to erect, in the High street of their city, a building intended for scientific purposes, to contain a lecture-room, library, museum, &c. The society is actually formed, and nothing required but the structure, the site of which is partly agreed upon.*

Troy Town, standing at the back of Rochester, which has sprung up within the last thirty years, occupies a space of ground formerly used as brick-fields. It is in St. Margaret's parish, within the liberty of the city of Rochester, and derives

* About one mile from Rochester, on the right of the road leading to Canterbury, is a mathematical school, governed by a master and two assistants, founded in 1828. In this seminary 100 pupils may be accommodated, who receive every instruction necessary to fit them for commercial pursuits. The salary of the head teacher is £200, the second master, £120, and the third, £80 per annum.

On the same road, a quarter of a mile from Rochester, is also a classical seminary, established by a society of gentlemen, holding shares. It is a large mansion, stuccoed in front, capable of containing 100 students, and is attended by four preceptors.

its name from a person connected with the property and original foundation of this populous district.

The city of Rochester is strongly fortified on the south side, agreeable to the modern system of defence. Fort Pitt, partly in the parish of St. Margaret and in that of Chatham, was erected in 1803, being originally intended for a military hospital. In 1812, Fort Clarence was built, a little to the west of St. Margaret's church, and a broad deep ditch, extending from the river to the Maidstone road, defended by a rampart, with casemates for troops, and magazines for powder, completed at the same time. These, in conjunction with *Chatham Lines*,* are considered as a regular series of fortified positions, commanding the river, and extending from Gillingham fort to the right bank of the Medway, above Rochester bridge.

There were formerly two parishes within the walls of this city, those of Sts. Clement's and Nicholas, and two without the walls, Sts. Mary and Margaret; of which there remains only those of Sts. Nicholas and Margaret.

St. Clement's parish was situated in the western parts of the city, and appears to have extended from the court hall, westward, to the river. A considerable portion of the walls of this church is still remaining at the entrance from the High street, into the lane formerly called St. Clement's, but now Horsewash lane, the east end, or chancel, having been visible in Mr. Hasted's time, as well as part of the south wall, forming the frontage of three dwellings, almost in a line northward from Bridge lane; while the north wall forms the backs of the houses in question. The width of the church does not appear to have been above forty feet; there were a row of pillars and arches extending from east to west, at about fourteen feet from the north wall, making a narrow aisle; two of the pillars and one arch are still existing in one of the houses above mentioned. Adjoining the north wall of the church was the churchyard, which, in 1580, had become private property.

This church was a rectory, of which John Hurrope was the last rector, who died in 1538, when this parish was served by

* On the elevated position called the *Lines*, near the military barracks, is the race course, whence you command a wonderfully fine panoramic view in every direction. The races at this place do not present any very great attractions.

different curates. The income of the rectory was so trifling, as to be united to the adjoining parish of St. Nicholas, by an Act passed in the reign of Edward VI.

The parish of St. Mary was situated without the eastern gate of the city, and the church was standing in the time of the Saxons, A.D. 850.

The parish of St. Nicholas, the only one at present within the confines of Rochester, appears to have been a parochial district before the Conquest. It certainly was so in the time of bishop Gundulph, though there was no church belonging thereto for some centuries after; but in lieu of the same, the parishioners resorted to an altar in the cathedral, called the Parochial Altar of St. Nicholas, to which the officiating priest was appointed by the convent, and presented to the bishop. This altar is supposed by many to have been placed in the large recess on the east side of the great north cross aisle of the cathedral. It was certainly below the choir, and removed from the place where it previously stood, by the monks, as appears by a judicial Act made in 1312, whereby the parishioners were allowed to perform service there; and agreed that, whenever the prior and chapter should cause a proper church to be built elsewhere, they would then resort thither as to their parish-church, without any further claim in that or any other place in the cathedral. No description is left of the church, which appears to have remained nearly 200 years; when the building becoming ruinous, and, in 1620, found incapable of reparation, was taken down, and the new one, now standing, raised on the same spot. It is a substantial spacious church, handsomely fitted up, and ornamented; and at the north-west angle is a tower steeple, containing two bells.

The present altarpiece was presented by Edward Bartholomew, esq. in 1706; he also gave for the use of the church two silver flaggons, and a patten of £30 price. Edward Harlowe, in 1609, gave a gilt cup, and Francis Brooke, esq. in 1703, a large silver plate, for the offering at the sacrament; and Henry Austin, gent. presented two handsome large Common Prayer books, to be placed on the altar. This parish is situated within the diocese and deanery of Rochester. The vicarage of St. Nicholas, in 1291, was valued at five marks, and estimated in the king's books at £20 8 9, the yearly tenths being £2 0 10½.

In 1649 the yearly value was returned to be £59 6 8, the bishop of Rochester continuing patron of this vicarage.

There is a manor in this parish called *Ambree Manerium Amberiæ*, which became part of the possessions of the dean and chapter of Rochester, and formerly belonged to the priory; it was called the Cellarer's court, and held at le Ameribenche, that is, the almonry bench of the priory, from which it acquired that name.

In this parish, at a small distance southward of the castle, is a large mount thrown up, in ancient times called Bully Hill, whereon are built several good houses, the principal of which stands on the summit of the mount, commanding a fine view of the river, both above and below bridge, the navy docks, &c., the cathedral, the castle, and adjoining country, forming altogether a prospect scarcely to be exceeded. This seat, with the surrounding gardens, was the property of Thomas Pearce, esq., commissioner of the navy, whose son Thomas sold it to Thomas Gordon, esq., who rebuilt it. His daughter and heir carried it in marriage to her first cousin, William Gordon, esq., late M.P. for this city, and sheriff for the county in 1763. He resided here, and died possessed of it in 1776, leaving an only daughter and his widow surviving, who possessed this property.

Satis is a seat lying westward from the last mentioned, nearer the river, on the edge of the cliff, and at a considerable height. In the reign of Elizabeth it was the property and residence of Mr. Richard Watts, who, as before observed, had the honour of entertaining the queen in 1573. It is said that when Mr. Watts, at her departure, apologised for the smallness of his house, as being ill suited for the reception of so great a princess, the queen in return made use only of the Latin word *satis*, (enough,) signifying she was perfectly contented. After the death of his widow, this estate was sold, and the money arising from the sale applied towards the support of the almshouse, now called Watts's hospital, in this city. After passing through several owners, it became the residence of John Langley, esq. recorder of Rochester.

Walker Weldon, of Swanscombe, owner of Rochester castle, in 1722 conveyed to Mr. Philip Brooke that part of the ditch and ground, then as it lay unenclosed, on Bully hill, being the whole breadth of the eminence and ditch, without the castle

walls, extending thence to the Medway, under which title it descended, with Satis, to Mr. Joseph Brooke, who filled up the ditch within a few yards of the river, and planted it with trees, now forming a lawn in front of the house. On the hill being levelled for the above purposes, many Roman urns, *Paterœ lachrymatorœ*, and other remains of that nation were found by the workmen, most of which were given to Dr. Thorpe, of this city.

The large mount whereon Mrs. Gordon's house and garden stand, was, in all probability, thrown up by the Danes in 885, at the time they besieged this city, a circumstance recorded by most of our ancient historians.

THE PARISH OF ST. MARGARET'S is of large extent, and contains all the lands, without the walls, on the south side of the city, that are within the limits of its jurisdiction. It is styled in some records, St. Margaret's in Suthgate, and in those of the city, the borough of Suthgate. There are two streets in this parish.

Several MANORS are also contained within the bounds of this parish, the most eminent of which is that of BORSTALL, given to the church of Rochester in 811, by Cœnulf, king of Mercia, as three plough lands. It so continued till the Conquest, and was entered in Domesday under the general title of the possessions of this see.

The manor, with others in the neighbourhood, was anciently bound to contribute to the repairs of the first pier of Rochester bridge.

NASHENDEN is a manor in this parish, about three quarters of a mile from Borstall. In the *Textus Roffensis*, it is called *Hescenden*, and in Domesday record, *Essedene*. This manor was part of the possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux, being so entered in Domesday record. Under Henry II. it was held by Thomas de Nessingdon, of Daniel de Crevequer, as one knight's fee. In the reign of Edward I. this manor had become the property of Jeffery Haspale, whose descendant, John, died possessed of Nashenden, after which it passed to the name of Basing, and thence to that of Charles.

Richard Charles, under Richard II., died possessed of Naseden, when Nicholas Haut afterwards possessed this manor in right of his wife, a descendant of the above-mentioned family.

She held it for her life, with remainder to James Peckham, who, in the reign of Henry IV., came into possession of the estate. He obtained the king's licence to give and amortize to the wardens of Rochester bridge this manor, since which it has continued in their possession for the support and repairs of the same. There was a chapel at this place dependent on the parish-church of St. Margaret.

Great Delce is a manor, which, with the estate called Lower Delce, lies on the eastern side of the parish, about half a mile from Eastgate, in Rochester. It was formerly called Much Delce, and Delce Magna, or Great Delce, and given by the Conqueror to Odo, bishop of Bayeux. On his disgrace it went to the possession of a family, on which it conferred the name. Herebert, Gosfrid, and Hugo de Delce, possessed it in successive generations, after which it passed to the name of Buckeril, under Henry III., when it was separated into parcels, as Geoffry de Haspole held this manor, as the fourth part of a knight's fee. The next family that succeeded was the Molineux's, which did not long possess it, and it subsequently passed through many names, till the reign of Queen Anne, when this estate, excepting the manor and forty acres of land, became the property of Thomas Chiffinch, esq. of Northfleet, in this county, from which time the seat acquired the name of Lower Delce.

Thomas Chiffinch, esq. died in 1727, who was succeeded by Thomas his only son and heir. He died without issue in 1775, bequeathing this estate to his niece Mary, who carried it in marriage to Francis Wadman, esq. of the Hive, in Northfleet, when he possessed Lower Delce.

The manor of Great Delce, and the forty acres of land above mentioned, were in the possession of Richard Lee, esq., who died possessed of them in 1724, and his grandson Richard, of Wales, possessed this manor, but in 1769 alienated the demesnes to Mr. Sampson Waring, of Chatham. He died owner in 1769, leaving his brother, Walter Waring, and Mrs. Smith, of Lower Delce, his executors. The court for the manor of Great Delce has not been held for some years.

Little Delce, or Delce Parva, now known by the name of Upper Delce, is a manor in this parish, situated in the high road between Rochester and Maidstone. It was given by

William the Conqueror to Odo bishop of Bayeux, and as such entered in Domesday record. On his disgrace it most probably reverted to the king, and was afterwards possessed by a family that assumed the name of Delce. In the reign of King John it was held by Jeffry de Bosco, a Norman, but this manor was afterwards passed to William de Ciriton, who died possessing it under Henry III. On that family becoming extinct, it was possessed by Richard Pogeys, and afterwards by the family of the Basing's, from which it passed into that of the Charles's, a descendant of whom, Richard Charles, dying without issue, his two sisters became his coheirs. Alice, married William Snayth, and Joan, Richard Ormskirk, when, on the division of their estates, this manor fell to the share of William Snayth, commonly called Snette, soon after which Charles and William Snette gave and amortized this manor of Little Delce to the wardens of Rochester bridge, for the support and repair of the same; since which it has acquired the name of *Upper Delce.*

The parish of St. Margaret, in Rochester, is within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The church, situated at the south extremity of St. Margaret's street, consists of one nave, and two chancels on the south side, of much later date than the church. That towards the east end was built and long supported by the family of the Lee's, of Great Delce, whose remains lie in a large vault under this chancel, but, since the alienation of their mansion, the repairs have devolved on the parishioners. At the west end of the church is a tower, covered with ivy to the summit, which presents a beautiful picturesque appearance. Against the east wall, in the south chancel, is an ancient bust, in robes, with a coronet on the head. In the reign of Charles II. a crown, set with precious stones, was dug up in this churchyard, when the report of the parishioners was, that one of our Saxon kings had been buried here.

Rochester has given title to several families; Sir Robert Carr, or Kerr, k.b., the favorite of James I., was first created by letters patent, in 1611, Viscount Rochester, afterwards knight of the Garter, and earl of Somerset. He died in 1645, leaving an only daughter, married to the earl of Bedford, so that his title became extinct.

Henry Wilmot, son of Viscount Athlone, in Ireland, was by

Charles II. created earl of Rochester, leaving an only son, who succeeded his father in the earldom, and dying without issue male, his title became extinct.

Laurence Hyde, son of the chancellor Lord Clarendon, was by letters patent created earl of Rochester. He left one son Henry, who succeeded as earl of Rochester, and the latter also left a son, Henry viscount Cornbury, who died before him, without issue male in 1753, so that this title became extinct.

In 1773 the hop duty of the whole kingdom amounted to £45,847 18 10, of which the eastern division of Kent paid at Canterbury £10,737 0 6, and the western division at Rochester, £14,958 5 4. In 1778 the total amount of the duty was £159,891 2 10¼, of which the eastern part of Kent paid £36,862 3 6; the western, £42,046 6 11. In 1794 it was £203,063 2 0¼, when the Kent collections amounted to £90,000; but, in 1824 it amounted to £258,838 5 3½, of which the Canterbury collection was £56,394 18 4, and that of Rochester was £95,169 17s.

As in the last census of the population, taken by order of Government in 1821, the populations of the city of Rochester and town of Chatham are enumerated together, we refer our readers to the ensuing account of the latter place for the same.

THE HUNDRED OF

CHATHAM AND GILLINGHAM.

THE next hundred eastward from Rochester, is that of CHATHAM and GILLINGHAM, which was formerly esteemed as two separate half hundreds, viz. that of Chatham and of Gillingham.

This hundred contains the parishes of CHATHAM; GILLINGHAM, *in part;* ST. JAMES'S, *in the isle of Graine,* before described; and the churches of those parishes.

CHATHAM adjoins Rochester eastward, called in Domesday *Cetcham,* and in the *Textus Roffensis, Cættham.* This place appears to have taken its name from the Saxon words, *cyte,* a cottage, and *ham,* a village, that is, the village of cottages.

The parish of Chatham extends four miles in length from north to south, and between two and three miles from east to west. The soil, excepting in the vale, where it is a fertile loamy land, is in general chalk, but the southern part mostly a red earth, mixed with flints, and rather sterile; its northern boundary is the river Medway, near which, in the vale, the town of Chatham and the dockyard are situated, whence the chalk hills rise suddenly on all sides. Towards the south it extends over much hilly ground, interspersed by frequent coppice woods, presenting a wild and dreary aspect. Through the town of Chatham the great high road leads from London to Dover, eastward of which is Chatham hill, an entire surface of chalk; and below, in the valley, on the right, stands the hamlet of LUTON, near which is some fertile loamy soil.

The town of Chatham, the chief part of which has been built since the reign of Elizabeth, joins, as previously observed, the city of Rochester, which, with Strood,* makes one long street, more than two miles in length, commonly called the Three Towns.

* Having again occasion to mention Strood, as forming a principal portion in this district, we subjoin an account of the tunnel there, conducting from the

Chatham is situated close to the bank of the Medway, half a mile after which, the river leaving the town, flows north-north-east. It is like most seaports, a long, disagreeable, narrow, ill-built town, the inhabitants in general being occupied in those trades adapted to the commerce of the shipping and seafaring persons. The celebrity of this place has arisen entirely from its dockyard and arsenal, which occupy an extensive area on the north side of the town, nearly a mile in length, defended on the land side by strong fortifications, principally of modern origin. This town has experienced considerable improvements under the operation of an Act passed for paving and lighting, in 1772, but the streets are still narrow, crowded, and inconvenient in all points of view.

Near the entrance to Chatham is the king's victualling-office, extremely neat and convenient, from which his Majesty's ships are supplied with provisions. On the south side of the street, not far hence, stood an hospital for leprous persons, founded in 1078 by Bishop Gundulph, and dedicated to St. Bartholomew, no part of which is now standing, houses having been long since erected on the site. The chapel, however, remains, and the east end exhibits marks of great antiquity. It is circular, with stone walls three feet thick, having a stone roof. There are three narrow windows, in one of which the zigzag ornaments, used in early Norman buildings, may be traced, but the mouldings of the other two windows are smooth, being corroded by time and weather. Hugh de Trottesclive, a monk of the priory of Rochester, being registered as the builder of a church for lepers, in honour of St. Bartholomew, the construction of this part of the chapel has been attributed to him.

Medway to Gravesend, two miles and a quarter in length, having been constructed by a company, holding shares, which work was commenced upwards of thirty years back. The engineer was Mr. G. Clark, who erected the suspension bridge at Hammersmith, and the expense incurred was £350,000.

The good resulting from this grand undertaking is the conveyance of barges, and small craft of every description, free from the danger to which they were formerly exposed in sailing round the Nore, a passage that sometimes occupied many days, whereas, by means of this tunnel, all obstacles are removed, while they can calculate on their certain arrival, by a given time, at the spot appointed. The immense body of water required is supplied by a steam-engine.

The new church at Strood was also erected after the plan of Mr. Smirke, and is capable of containing from 12,000 to 15,000 persons, having cost £8000.

The edifice was used for many years as a chapel of ease to Chatham church. Since 1627 the estates of this charitable institution have been vested in the dean of Rochester, as governor and patron of the hospital and brethren. There are still four persons styled brethren, two of whom are in orders, and supported by these revenues.

An hospital, founded by Sir John Hawkins, for poor decayed mariners and shipwrights, stands on the opposite side of the street. From an inscription on the wall, it appears that the first building appropriated for their reception was finished in 1592. At the request of the founder, Queen Elizabeth granted a charter of incorporation, by the name of "the governors of the hospital of Sir John Hawkins, knight, at Chatham."

Ten pensioners are maintained in this establishment, having a small weekly allowance, and a chaldron of coals yearly. No person is eligible who has not been wounded or disabled in the navy, or otherwise brought to poverty while in that service. By the above charter, dated 1594, the governors are always to consist of twenty-six in number, of whom four only are elective, while the others sit by virtue of their respective offices. These consist of the archbishop of Canterbury; the bishop of Rochester; the lord high admiral; the lord warden of the Cinque Ports; the dean of Rochester; the treasurer; comptroller; surveyor and clerk of the navy; six principal masters of mariners; two principal shipwrights; and the master and wardens of the Trinity House for the time being. The buildings of this hospital were repaired between thirty and forty years back.

The new hospital, at Chatham, was erected from the plans of G. L. Taylor, esq., the architect of Somerset House, by Hugh Macintosh, esq. of Bloomsbury square.* It is built of brick, cased with cement and Portland stone, being 350 feet long,

* The great improvement in the road at West Hill, opposite Little Hermitage, the estate of Edward Hulkes, esq. in Frindsbury, six miles on the Canterbury side of Gravesend, which parish has been previously described, is due to the commissioners of the roads, and more particularly the Rev. Mr. Davis and Mr. Browne, under the superintendence of Mr. Macintosh, above mentioned. The labour alluded to includes a lowering of the hill by thirty-three feet, and filling up the adjoining valley forty feet; the quantity of earth removed amounting to 60,000 yards, at an expenditure of £4000.

Drawn by J. Shepherd.

Engraved by R. Reeve.

CHATHAM DOCK YARD.

FROM FORT PITT

KENT

with an arcade in front, where the patients promenade for the benefit of the air; the structure being capable of containing upwards of 400 invalids. It is supplied with a fine reservoir of water, the whole having cost £70,000; which labour confers the greatest credit upon the talents of the architect, and the builder employed.

Leading from the High street, at about a quarter of a mile distant, close to the river, is the OLD DOCK, being the repository of royal stores and ordnance; and farther on, the Royal Dock, above which, on the chalk hill, lies the village of Brompton, situated part in this parish and partly in that of Gillingham, consisting of about 400 houses, most of which have been erected within the memory of persons now living; and from its pleasant situation, being contiguous to the dock-yard, is continually increasing. Contiguous are the barracks, surrounded by extensive lines of fortifications, to defend the docks and stores, in case of the invasion of an enemy on the land side.

The storehouses and wharf, for the use of the ordnance, are situated on a narrow slip of land, below the chalk cliff, on the north side of the town, between the church and the river, usually called the Old Dock, from having been the original royal naval yard, till James I., in 1622, finding it too circumscribed for the growing service of the navy, having then but one small dock, removed the naval yard to its present situation, and assigned the former to the use of the office of Ordnance, whereto it has continued appropriate.

The guns belonging to the royal shipping in this river are deposited on this wharf in long tiers, and large pyramids of cannon balls are there laid up, ready for service; there is also a continued range of storehouses, wherein are deposited the gun carriages, and every other species of store, usually under the care of this office. In one is a small armoury of musquets, pistols, cutlasses, pikes, poleaxes, and other hostile weapons, arranged in proper order, which department is under the management of a storekeeper, who has a good residence; a clerk of the Survey; and clerk of the Cheque; who have each handsome salaries; besides other inferior officers and labourers.

THE ROYAL NAVAL DOCK adjoins northward, ranging along the eastern bank of the river, to the extent of a mile. Though,

as before observed, King James removed the royal dock thither, it is most probable his predecessor, Queen Elizabeth, had before made some docks here for shipping.

Charles I. considerably improved his father's plan, by erecting several buildings, enlarging the site of the yard, and making new docks for floating ships with the tide. Charles II., on his restoration, visited this dock in 1660, and viewed the Royal Sovereign, a first-rate, of 100 guns; about seven years after which, this dock, with all it contained, had nearly been destroyed, as, in 1667, being at war with Holland, Admiral de Ruyter, with fifty sail, anchored at the Nore, whence he despatched his vice admiral, Van Ghent, with seventeen of his lightest ships, and eight fireships, to destroy this dock, and the navy riding in the river. Van Ghent having taken Sheerness, though gallantly defended by Sir Edward Spragge, blew up the fortifications, burnt the storehouses, and thence, on the 10th of June, sailed up the Medway. The famous general Monk, in the mean time, hastened to Chatham, where he used every endeavour for the security of the river; but a strong easterly wind, and a springtide, aided the enemy with such resistless force, that the chain, laid across the river to prevent his approach, was broken, when the Mathias, Unity, and Charles the Fifth, three large Dutch prizes, taken during that war, were burnt, and many others much damaged. After this, Van Ghent pressing forward between the sunken ships, brought six of his men-of-war, and five fireships, before Upnor castle, and although they met with a warm reception, nevertheless found means to seize the hull of the Royal Charles, when, finding the country alarmed, they ventured no farther up the river, but immediately retreated; and, on their return, burnt the Royal Oak, and destroyed the Loyal London and Great James, which they left nearly under water. It appears, by the account of the duke of Albermarle, that the whole of this disgraceful transaction was owing to the wilful neglect of Sir Phineas Pett, commissioner of Chatham yard, for which he was impeached by the House of Commons, but found means to screen himself. This attempt gave the English nation such cause for alarm as to the safety of the royal navy and yards on the Medway, that the several forts along the banks were immediately put in a state of defence, especially the fort of Sheerness, at which place

the fortifications were greatly increased, and a line of such heavy cannon mounted, commanding the entrance of the river, that it was hardly possible for the fleet of any power to attempt passing in future, without being blown to atoms. This dock-yard has been from time to time continually improved and enlarged, and it now contains many elegant buildings, inhabited by the commissioner and other principal officers, the whole suited to the opulence of the nation and the importance of the navy; independent of which, there are many neat and commodious offices, for transacting the business of the yard. There are also large storehouses, one of which is 660 feet long; and workrooms, which, for their spaciousness, convey a magnificent idea of their contents, and the immense works carried on within. The sail-loft is 209 feet in length.

In these magazines are deposited prodigious quantities of sails, rigging, hemp, flax, with every other article necessary for the building and equipping of ships. The coils of cordage and heaps of blocks are arranged in such perfect order, that on any emergency, they may be taken out without the least confusion.

The new ropehouse is very extensive, being 1140 feet in length; in this yard are four deep and wide basins, for docking and repairing large ships, in one of which the Victory was built, carrying 110 guns; there are also six slips or launches, on which new ships are constantly building. The new Royal George, of 100 guns, was built here in 1788, being the first ship of that rate ever launched from a slip. The whole of the yard, towards the land, is surrounded by a wall, the approach being through a large handsome gateway, flanked by two embattled towers; this entrance is strictly watched by the porter and his assistants, who examine every stranger before he is permitted to enter.

The business of this yard is transacted by a commissioner, who has three clerks and two master attendants. The better to secure these magazines from any accident, two Acts were passed in the 8th of Queen Anne, for vesting certain lands and tenements in trustees, for the better fortifying and securing this dock. In pursuance of that measure, a quantity of land, and many houses adjoining the yard, and the old dock, were purchased for the crown; but nothing further was done till 1758, the 51st of George II., when this nation being at war with

France, and threatened with an invasion, it was thought necessary, as far as possible, to secure the docks from any attempt that might be made; and, to effect this, another Act passed for the purchase of more lands, and vesting them in the crown, when extensive lines were formed round the dock, on the land side, secured by ramparts, palisades, and a deep broad ditch, extending from the river, above the old dock, to the same again below the yard next Gillingham, about a mile in length, including the hamlet of Brompton, and Chatham church, with several houses near; contiguous to which spot the most ancient street in this town is supposed to have been situated. Large and commodious barracks were likewise erected, sufficient to contain five regiments of soldiers, and a battalion of artillery, which are constantly quartered here, to guard and defend these lines and the docks, whenever occasion might require. These fortifications have been repaired and augmented at a considerable expense, a new redoubt has been raised on the summit of the hill, at the south-east extremity, called Amherst's redoubt, and an Act passed in 1782 for vesting further lands on the south side of the town in the crown, for extending the lines on that side to any point that should be deemed expedient for the further security of this grand arsenal.

According to the returns under the Population Act, in 1811, it appears that Chatham contained 12,652 inhabitants, who were chiefly employed in the dockyard and trades appertaining thereto.

Numerous Roman remains were discovered in the neighbourhood of Chatham, when the extensive fortifications, called *the Lines*, were formed. No less than 100 graves were opened by Mr. Douglas, then captain of the engineer company. Many of these were found near the southeastern extremity of the Lines, towards Upberry farm, which contained human skeletons of both sexes, with swords, spearheads, beads of various colours, the umbo of a shield, different pieces of armour, a bottle of red earth, and an urn filled with ashes, vast numbers of Roman coins, the impressions mostly obliterated, with a variety of other antiquities. On the breaking up of the ground, in another part of the fortification, the workmen met with the strong foundation of a building, and on removing the earth, it was found to be the outer wall of a range of small apart-

ments, the largest not more than ten feet square, the inner walls being painted in fresco with red, blue, and green spots. Among the rubbish were fragments, having broad red stripes, and others with narrow stripes, of different colours. In forming the contiguous works, quantities of Roman coins were found, one of which was of the Empress Faustina, and another of the Emperor Claudius, in good preservation. There was also discovered an Athenian coin of silver, having on one side the head of Minerva, armed with a skullcap; and on the reverse, an owl, with a sprig of laurel. Pieces of Roman tiles, spear-heads, pateræ, lachrymatories, and other antique vessels were also dug up. On the south-west side of the above-mentioned cells, the foundation of a larger building, not so deep in the ground as the other, was discovered, which traced within the redoubt, as far as the bank of earth thrown out of the ditch would permit, was found to measure thirty feet by twenty-one. What these foundations were, cannot be ascertained; in all probability much more still remain; but the tumuli, and other sepulchral fragments belonging to persons of both sexes, plainly evince it to have been a common burial-place in the time of the Romans. Mr. Douglas, in his *Nenia Britannica*, has published his observations on the various Roman remains discovered within these Lines at different times, with several engravings of the *tumuli* opened, and the contents found therein. Besides the Roman coins, numbers of old English, French, and German pieces, and many different kinds of tradesmen's tokens, have also been found scattered about the grounds.

Chatham gave the title of baron to John, the great duke of Argyle, who, was, in 1705, by Queen Anne, created baron Chatham and earl of Greenwich, to him and his heirs male. In 1719 he was created duke of Greenwich, and died in October 1743, without issue male; so that the above title became extinct.

The lady Hester Pitt, sister of Richard earl Temple, and wife of the Right Hon. William Pitt, in consideration of his great and important services, was, in 1761, created baroness Chatham, with a continuance of the title to her and her heirs male by her said husband.

On July 30, 1766, the above-mentioned Right Hon. William Pitt, on a further consideration of his services, was created

viscount Pitt of Burton Pynsent, in Somersetshire, and earl of Chatham, with remainder to his heirs male. He died in 1778, leaving by the lady Hester his wife, John earl of Chatham, privy counsellor, chancellor of the Exchequer, and prime minister of this kingdom, now deceased; and James Charles, who died in the West Indies, in 1780, unmarried; with two daughters, Hester, married to Charles viscount Mahon, now earl Stanhope; and Harriet, to Edward, eldest son of lord Eliot.

In the time of Edward the Confessor, Chatham was in the possession of Godwin earl of Kent, on whose death it descended to his son, Harold, king of England, who being slain, William the Conqueror gave this estate to Odo bishop of Bayeux; under the title of whose lands it was entered in Domesday record. On his disgrace, it was granted to the eminent family of the Crevequer's, having been for some time the principal manor of their barony.

Robert, son of Hamo de Crevequer, left a son, Hamo, whose son, Robert, erected Leeds castle and the priory there, in 1119. His great grandson, Hamo, died in the 47th of Henry III., possessed of this manor of Chatham, leaving Robert, his grandson, who taking part with the barons against the king, this, among other estates, was seized, and although restored to the king's favor, yet he never regained this manor, which seems to have remained in the hands of the crown till the 19th of Edward I., when it was granted to Guido Ferre, for the term of his life. He died possessed of it in the 4th of Edward III., the same being then held of the inheritance of Giles de Badlesmere, *in capite*, by knight's service. Giles de Badlesmere died possessed of this manor in the 12th of Edward III., without issue, leaving his four sisters his coheirs. On the division of their inheritance, this manor was allotted to Margaret, wife of Sir John Tiptoft, who held it in her right, and died possessed of the same under Edward III., without issue male, when his three daughters became his coheirs. The youngest was married to Sir Philip le Despencer, who, on partition of their estates, possessed this manor, when she left a daughter and heir, Margery, who, under Henry VI., owned this estate, being then wife of Roger Wentworth, esq., who in her right became entitled to the same. Their descendant, Sir Thomas Wentworth, of Nettlested, in Suffolk, was summoned

to Parliament in the reign of Henry VIII., and died under Edward VI., being then lord chamberlain of the king's household. Thomas lord Wentworth succeeded to this manor, and was made deputy of Calais; and on the king's death, he was the first that appeared for Queen Mary, who, in the 1st year of her reign, made him a privy counsellor, and again deputy of Calais, which office he held till the fatal loss of that place.

In the 8th of Elizabeth, he alienated the manor of Chatham to Francis Barneham and Stephen Slanie, who passed away their interest to John Hart and Michael Barker; and they, in the 20th year of that reign, had license to alienate the estate to Reginald Barker, esq., who died in 1600, and was buried in Chatham church. Anne, his widow, sold it to Sir Robert Jackson, who, in the reign of Charles I., conveyed it by sale to Sir Oliver Boteler, whose grandson, Sir Oliver, bart., gave it in marriage with his daughter, Joan, to Christopher Rhodes, esq., whose son, of the same name, afterwards possessed it. On his death, his sister marrying Charles Birkhead, esq., entitled her husband to the property, who possessed this manor.

There is a market and two fairs belonging to this manor.

WADESLADE, or *Walderslade*, now generally called WASLETT, is a manor, formerly accounted a member of the manor of Chatham, of which it is now held. After the disgrace of the bishop of Bayeux, it went into the possession of the family of the Crevequer's; from which it passed to that of the Leyborne's, of Leyborne, in this county, when, for want of heirs, this manor became escheated to the crown, until Richard II. gave it to the priory of canons, in Hertfordshire. It so continued till the dissolution of that house, under Henry VIII., who granted to Richard, suffragan bishop of Dover, this manor, together with the site of the monastery, to hold during his life. In the 36th year of the same reign, it was possessed by Sir Thomas Moile, to hold *in capite*, who gave it in marriage with his daughter and coheir, to Sir Thomas Kempe, of Ollantigh, in Wye. It afterwards passed through the names of the Mabbe's; the Fogge's; the Cock's; the Lee's, of Delce; Sir Owen Buckingham Manley, of Reading; the Bosville's; the Betenson's; and lastly, to Thomas Lane, of Sevenoak. The other moiety passed from the Manley's to the name of Lisle; thence to Philip Bearcroft, who sold it to Abraham Chambers, esq.

of London; and he left a widow and two sons, who were coheirs in gavelkind to his moiety of this estate.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

SHARSTED, or SHAWSTED, is a manor lying among the woods in the southern part of this parish, which had anciently owners who thence derived their surname.

Fulco de Sharsted held it as half a knight's fee in the reign of Edward I., and Simon de Sharsted died possessed of it, as also of a portion of the manor of Lydesing, in this parish and Gillingham. In the reign of Edward II., it passed to Sir Henry de Leyborne, and thence to the family of the Say's; it was subsequently alienated to Robert Belknapp, who, in the reign of Edward III., granted the manor of Sharsted to the prior and convent of Rochester, at the yearly rent of twenty-two marks, for ever. It so continued till the dissolution, under Henry VIII., when being surrendered to the king, he settled it on his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester; in whom it has remained.

HORSTED is a manor in this parish, part of which lands are in Rochester, the boundary of the liberty of that city extending towards the south-east as far as this mansion.

This place, as mentioned in another part of our history, is supposed to have taken its name from Horsa the Saxon general.

The manor, in the reign of Henry III., was part of the possessions of the family of the Apulderfield's, as, in the 38th of that reign, William de Apulderfield obtained a charter of *free warren* for his lands at Horsted. After this family became extinct, it passed to the Waryn's, one of whom, John, son of Edward Waryn, died possessed of it in the 12th of Edward III. From that name it went to Benedict de Fulsham, whose descendant Richard held it at his death, when it passed through the names of the Jones's, the Venour's, the Markham's, the Tate's, Sir Richard Lee Harvey, and Walter Hatley Foote, esq., on the death of which latter gentleman, in 1791, his son, George Talbot Hatley Foote, succeeded to it, and in that year was owner of this estate.

There is no court held for this manor.

SNODHURST, usually called *Snolledge*, is a hamlet, formerly part of the possessions of the family of the Crevequer's, lords of Chatham. In the reign of Edward II. it was possessed by

the Badlesmere's, but Bartholomew de Badlesmere joining with the barons, was taken and executed at Canterbury. Notwithstanding his delinquency, his young son Giles found such favor with the king that, in the 7th of Edward III. doing homage, he had possession granted of his inheritance, though not then of age, when, dying without issue, his four sisters became his coheirs, one of whom parted with her interest therein to Benedict de Fulsham. His descendants held it under Henry V., after which this estate passed through the same succession of ownerships as Great Delce, in Rochester, till the reign of Queen Anne, when Richard Lee, of Great Delce, passed it away by sale to Robert Harvey, who alienated it, with other estates, to William Walter, esq., of Chatham. He bore for his arms, *Azure, a fess indented, or, between three spread eagles, argent*, and died in 1745, when he gave this estate to his nephew, Thomas Walter, who conveyed it to Hatley Foote, esq., and his son, George Foote, esq. afterwards possessed the same.

SETTINGTON, otherwise SITTINGTON, is a farm and reputed manor in this parish, which, in the reign of James I., was part of those ample possessions, in this neighbourhood, that were owned by Sir Maximilian Dalyson, who, at his death, bequeathed this estate to his son, and he, in like manner, was succeeded by his son, Mr. Charles Dalyson, of Chatham. The latter alienated the property to Mr. Isaac Walker, of Lutton, in this parish, who devised it by will to his three sons, and their several shares were, in 1714, centered in Mr. John Walker, the only surviving son of Richard, eldest of the above-mentioned heirs. He passed it by sale to Mr. Richard Venner, of Northfleet, whose heirs sold it to Mr. Laurence, whence it passed, in 1773, to Mr. John Holloway, of London, who appears afterwards to have alienated this manor.

There is a good old mansion, called ROOM HOUSE, situated a small distance from the High street of Chatham, on the road leading to Maidstone. It was formerly in the possession of the family of the Walker's, who alienated it to Commodore Mihill, who sold it to George Hinde, esq., and at his death it was possessed by his widow, when it was sold to James Best, esq. of Chatham. He died in 1782, one of whose sons, Mr. Richard Best, afterwards resided there.

THE FUND, usually styled THE CHEST, AT CHATHAM,

the produce of which is regularly appropriated for the relief of sailors who have been wounded in the service, was first planned by Sir Francis Drake, and Sir John Hawkins, in 1588, after the defeat of the Spanish Armada, when the seamen of the royal navy voluntarily agreed to advance a certain portion of their pay towards the support of their distressed comrades. This was found to answer so well the benevolent purposes for which it was designed, that it has been continued to the present time, and been at different periods countenanced and encouraged by the crown and legislative authorities. In the 1st of James II., when a further duty of five shillings per ton was laid on all foreign built ships, one moiety was given by Parliament for the use of this charity, which is also possessed of many landed estates in this county. It is under the management of several governors, an accountant, paymaster, clerk, and surgeon; the amount of the gratuities and pensions being distributed from the produce of the revenues, to such seamen wounded in the service, in proportions adequate to their losses or sufferings, as are set forth in the smart ticket made out by the surgeon, and signed by the captain, lieutenant, master, and all the warrant officers.

CHATHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The new church is dedicated to St. John, and was erected about eight years back; the architect was Robert Smirke, esq., and the building superintended by — Brigden, esq. This edifice is calculated to contain 2000 persons, the cost of the structure having been defrayed by the commissioners appointed for the erection of churches.

In the old church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, which was enlarged and rebuilt in 1788, are many monumental inscriptions, and, among others, the following for William Nurse, and Mr. Thomas Best, of this parish; a monument for Jeremy Gregory, and another for Edward Yardley, esq. of Chatham; a memento, with arms; a male figure between his two wives, empaled, *Or, two bars in chief, a lion passant*, for Sir Edward Gregory, commissioner of Chatham yard. In the nave are two brass plates, and an inscription for Stephen Borough, who died in 1584, having discovered Muscovia by the north-sea passage. A monument for Sir John Cox, captain in the navy, killed in an engagement with the Dutch in 1672. Near the west door,

on a pedestal, is the figure of a man to the middle, with his right hand on a death's head, holding a book in his left; arms, *A unicorn passant, reguardant, or,* for Kenrike Edisbury, esq., surveyor of the navy, obiit 1638.

The church, esteemed a curacy, is not valued in the king's books; the parsonage, or great tithes of which, are held under lease from the dean and chapter of Rochester. The cure is supplied by a curate of their nomination, licensed by the bishop, who enjoys, by lease from that body, at a rental of one penny per annum, all the small tithes, and vicarial dues of this parish.

In the census taken by order of Parliament, in 1821, the populations of Chatham and Rochester are enumerated together, being as follow: dwellings 4135; males 11,245, females 12,818, making a total of 24,063 souls.

GILLINGHAM lies northeastward from Chatham, called in Domesday record, *Gelingeham,* and is bounded by the river Medway towards the north.

This parish extends from north to south nearly five miles, and two from east to west, the high London road crossing the centre eastward from Chatham hill; southward of which it presents a hilly, dreary country, much covered with coppice woods of oak. The soil is a poor unfertile red earth, much intermixed with rotten flints, and among the woods are several small hamlets, viz. Darling green, Capston, and, at the southern boundary, near Bredhurst, the hamlet and chapel of Lidsing, full four miles distant from the parish-church. Below the London road the ground descends northward, and, at about a mile and a half distant, is the village of Gillingham, with the church at the east side. Near the latter is a handsome house, the residence of Mr. William Danne, and eastward hence are the several estates of the Grange, Eastcourt, and Twydall, and, at no great distance lower down, the marshes, extending to the Medway, and constituting the northern boundary of this parish. On the shore is a fort, erected in the reign of Charles I. for the defence of the dockyard and navy stationed here; and, during the famous expedition of the Dutch, in 1667, previously referred to, there were not more than four guns in this fort capable of being used. It is now called *Gillingham castle,* having never been a place of much defence, and now totally in ruins. Westward of

the village is Upbury, and the manor-house of Westcourt, beyond which the ground ascends to the summit of the chalk hill, on which is the town of Brompton, commanding a beautiful prospect over the river and adjoining country, close to which are the lines of fortification already noticed in the description of the adjoining parish of Chatham, wherein part of them lie; and, below, the dockyard, a portion of which likewise is within this parish.

The lower part of Gillingham, not excepting the village, from its contiguity to the marshes, is extremely unhealthy; it is mostly inhabited by persons belonging to the dockyard, and other departments of Government, or persons who have belonged to the navy, and have retired from the service. A fair is held here annually on Easter Tuesday.

About one hundred years ago, there was dug up in the salt marshes, in this parish, a large urn, holding the quantity of a bushel, containing some fragments of burnt bones and ashes.

The annals of St. Austin mention a battle having been fought at Gillingham, between Edmund, surnamed Ironside, and Canute the Danish king. William, surnamed Gillingham, from his birth in this parish, lived in the reign of Richard II. He was a monk of Canterbury, of the Benedictine order, a very learned man, who wrote the history of this nation, and of his own monastery, which was in great esteem at that period. William Adams, a famous seaman, was also born here, having been the first who effectually discovered Japan, to which remote island he began his voyage in 1598. He died about 1612. In 1695 the Royal Sovereign, a first-rate man-of-war, being judged unfit for service, was laid up in the river close to this castle, but, through negligence, was set on fire and burned.

The manor of Gillingham, extending over the isle of Graine, was part of the ancient possessions of the church of Canterbury long before the Norman conquest, and entered in Domesday under the general title of lands of the Archbishop of Canterbury. This manor seems to have continued part of the possessions of that see till the 3d of Elizabeth, when the queen took it into her hands for the exchange of other premises, and made many grants of different portions, from time to time; several parcels of the demesne lands having been given to Thomas Heyborne, for a term of years; as did King James, in his 3d

year, to Thomas and William Short. King Charles, in his 1st year, made a grant to William Payneter, which at that king's death was vested in Henry Goulding. The powers then acting seized on all the royal estates for the benefit of the State, when this property was sold to Robert Read, Robert Anderson, and others, who retained them till the Restoration, upon which Alynton, son of William Payneter, took possession of them as heir to his father. He afterwards obtained a grant of this manor, in which he was succeeded by his son, Robert Payneter, who alienated his interest therein about the year 1720, to Thomas Lambarde, esq. of Sevenoak, on the death of whose son of the same name, they became vested in his son, Multon Lambarde, esq. of Sevenoak.

There are scarcely any remains of the ARCHIEPISCOPAL PALACE, which adjoined the south side of the churchyard, excepting a large building of stone, now used as a barn, which, from the remains of a chimney at each end, was either the great hall, or kitchen of the palace. Within the foundations of the old circuit walls stand the house and other buildings belonging to the court lodge of the manor. A coin of the emperor Antoninus was dug up within these walls.

EAST and WEST COURT are two manors in this parish, anciently but one, being held of the archbishop as of his manor of Gillingham, in the reign of Henry III., by Sir Hugh de Gillingham. His descendant Thomas died without issue male, leaving two daughters his coheirs; Margaret, married to John Thorpe, and Isabel to William Greenstreet, commonly called Grensted, who divided this manor, the former possessing West court, and the latter East court.

WEST COURT manor was sold by John Thorpe to Thomas Bradbury, who died possessed of it under Henry VII., and one of his descendants passed it to Nicholas Leveson, of Whorne's place, in Cookstone, after which it passed through many names, and at length became vested in Christopher Scarles, gent. of Hackstaple, in Sutton at Hone. On his death, in 1741, his widow became entitled to the property for her life, and after her death in 1774, their three surviving daughters, Anna, wife of John Strover, of Rochester; Jane Arabella, married to George Weekly, gent.; and Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Poynton, became joint owners of this property.

A court-baron is held for this manor, which extends over that part of the parish called Brompton, the same being built on the demesne land belonging thereto; the tenants are all freeholders in free socage tenure.

East Court manor was given by the will of William Greenstreet, to his sister's son and heir-at-law, Benedict Webb, whose grandson, John Webb, left issue two sons, who, in the reign of Elizabeth, joined in the sale of the same to William Payneter, esq., clerk of the ordnance, in whose descendants it continued till Robert Payneter, under George I., having procured an Act of Parliament for that purpose, alienated it to Thomas Lambard, esq. of Sevenoak, since the death of whose son, of the same name, this manor is now become vested in his son, Multon Lambard, of the same place.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

At the general survey of Domesday, Odo bishop of Bayeux was possessed of an estate in this parish, which was entered under the general title of his lands in that record, and upon his disgrace confiscated to the crown.

The Manor of Twidall, with an estate in this parish, called Dane Court, was certainly part of these possessions, and were both, about the reign of Henry I., held by a family which thence assumed its surname. Adam de Twidall owned this estate, as also Dane court, from whom they descended to Roger de Twidall, who, in the 38th of Edward III., passed them away to Robert Beaufitz, of Acton, in Charing, who bore for his arms, *Or, on a bend, three bells.* He married Joane, daughter of Roger de Twidall, and in their descendants these estates continued till the reign of Henry VII., when, by a daughter and coheir, Joan, they went in marriage to Robert Arnold, and after passing through many names, became vested in Multon Lambarde, esq. of Sevenoak.

Dane Court, however, which went by marriage to John Thorpe, was sold by one of his descendants, in the reign of Elizabeth, to Henry Harland, who passed it to William Short, and he died possessed of it in 1641, when, after some intermediate owners, it became vested in Robert Parker, esq. of Maidstone.

John Beaufitz, of Twidall, by will in 1433, founded and endowed a *chantry*, dedicated to St. John Baptist, for one priest

to celebrate mass for the souls of himself, his wife, and ancestors, which chapel was suppressed in the 1st of Edward VI.

Philipott says, the seats in the chapel, and other remains, prove it to have been formerly a neat and elegant piece of architecture, as it appeared some years ago. It was pulled down in 1756, with part of the old house. The chapel that joined the main building, was in the wing running northward, being very handsomely wainscoted.

The Grange, anciently called *Grench*, is a manor in this parish, part of which has been accounted, from the earliest times, a member of the ancient Cinque Port of Hastings, in Sussex, whose civil as well as criminal jurisdiction extends over about 120 acres. It appears from the certificate of Stephen de Pencester, constable of Dover castle, and warden of the Cinque Ports in the reign of Edward III., that the Grench was bound to find one ship, and two able and well armed men, to make up the quota of twenty-one ships, in each of which there were to be twenty-one able men, well armed, to continue in the king's service for forty days.

This manor, in the reign of Henry III., was held in sergeantry by Manasser de Hasting, at which time it was valued at 100s. In the 5th of Edward I., Mathew de Hasting was found to die possessed of the manor of Grench, belonging to the port of Hastings, which he held of the king, by the service of finding one oar, whenever the king should sail towards that port. From the name of Hasting it went by purchase to Richard Smelt; whose daughter and heir, Margaret, carried it in marriage to Richard Croydon, who dying without issue male, his daughter, Margery, entitled her husband, John Philipott, to the fee of the same. He was at that time alderman of London, afterwards lord mayor, and the following year, being the 8th of Richard II., among others, knighted at Smithfield by the king, as a reward for his services, in having overthrown the rebel, Wat Tyler; and at the same time, had a coat of augmentation to his arms, viz. *Gules, a cross between four swords, argent, the pomels and hilts, or.* He rendered many eminent services to the country, by fitting out a fleet of ships to clear the seas of the pirates, then infesting them; he also surprised and took John Mercer, a Scotch pirate, who had greatly destroyed the trade of the city, and also fifteen sail of Spanish

ships, richly laden and freighted with merchandize; all which he gave for the assistance of the king, in his war in France, where he maintained 1000 men. Notwithstanding this, he was called before the council for fitting out this fleet without the license of the king, and would have been hardly dealt by, had not Richard Fitzalan, earl of Arundel, stood his friend, and brought him off with honour and reputation.

He erected a chapel at his manor of Grange, long since desecrated, and made use of as a barn, having been valued, at the dissolution, at £6 per annum. In this chapel, the stonework round the great window was entirely covered with coats of arms, being his augmentation, and each coat joined to the next in one continued cross; which arms were empaled with, *On a fess, three mullets on a chief, a mullet between a leopard's face*, and a *star of six points*. He died in the 8th year of the above reign, and was buried, with the lady Jane Stamford, his wife, near the entrance into the choir of the Grey Friar's church, in London, having bequeathed, by will, several charitable legacies to the poor, and this manor to his second son, Mr. John Philipott, who, in the 11th of Henry VI., exchanged it for Twiford, in Middlesex, with Richard Bamme, esq. It subsequently passed through a variety of owners till 1791, when it went, by the will of Mrs. Anne Thornicroft, to her nephew, Alured Pincke, esq. of Sharsted, who sold it, in 1796, to the present possessor.

Upbery is a manor lying on the western part of this parish, which anciently belonged to the Benedictine nunnery of St. Sexburg, in the Isle of Shepey, to which it was given, with the rectory, in the reign of Henry I. It so remained till the dissolution, under Henry VIII., who demised it, for a term, to Sir Thomas Cheney; and his son, Sir Henry, afterwards lord Cheney, alienated this manor, rectory, and advowson of Gillingham, to Dr. Alexander Nowel, dean of St. Paul's; and he devised it to the principals and scholars of Brazen Nose College, in Oxford. The lease of this estate was, in the reign of Charles II., sold to Adam Baynes, gent., who alienated it to John Kingsford, esq. of Canterbury, whose son, Zachariah, of Chatham, passed away his interest to Mr. Augustine Simpson, of Southwark. His kinsman, in 1721, sold it to Mr. Adlam, whose widow alienated her interest to Mr. John Proby;

and he died intestate, leaving a widow and five children. Soon after she became, by agreement, entitled to the entire interest of this lease, which at her death, in 1771, she devised to Christopher Fullagar, of Cliff, yeoman, during the infancy of his children by her niece. He afterwards resided in the manor house, and occupied the estate, of which he had a new term granted, subject to Mrs. Proby's will; there is a court-baron excepted out of the lease, granted by the college, held for this manor. The tenants are all freeholders in common socage tenure, holding by fealty and suit of court every three weeks.

LIDSING, usually called *Lydging*, is a manor and hamlet lying at the southern extremity of this parish, near Bredhurst, part being in the parish of Chatham.

This estate was formerly the inheritance of the ancient family of Sharsted; Simon de Sharsted held it at his death, in the reign of Edward I.; and Sir Henry de Leyborne was possessed of it under Edward II.

In the reign of Edward III. it was in the family of the Say's; as Sir Roger de Say, in the 30th year of that prince, granted to his brother, Sir Jeffry de Say, his manor of Sharsted and Lyesigne, to hold in perpetual inheritance. He appears to have alienated these premises to Robert Belknapp, who, under Edward III., granted, among other premises, a moiety of this manor of Ledesinge, to the prior and convent of Rochester.

The other moiety continued longer in the name of Belknapp, as Robert Belknapp, above mentioned, was afterwards knighted, but favoring too much the designs of Richard II., he was attainted, and banished to Ireland by the Parliament, and though by the same power permitted to return, his attainder still continued, and his lands remained forfeited as before. The king considering him a martyr to his interest, then granted him several estates, and among others, this moiety of Lidesinge; but it did not long remain with him, as by a deed, in the 2d of of Henry IV., he gave it to the priory of St. Andrew, in Rochester, for one monk, being a priest, to celebrate mass in the cathedral, for the souls of himself, his predecessors, and successors.

The priory of Rochester becoming thus entitled to the whole fee of this manor, continued to possess it till the dissolution, under Henry VIII., when being surrendered to the king, he

settled it on his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester, where it still remains.

At this manor of Lydsing there has been a chapel of ease to the parish of Gillingham, where divine service is performed once a month, though there are but six houses within the district. The chancel or east end of this chapel was rebuilt, some years back, with brick, at the expense of the late vicar, Mr. Jenkinson. It is endowed with all the tithes of the hamlet, and was valued, in 1650, by order of the ruling power, at £25 per annum.

There is a marsh, called Church marsh, which the sexton used to enjoy by custom, for keeping the church clean; but it has of late years been detained by the rectors.

GILLINGHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and being a peculiar of the archbishop, is within the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church, situated at the east end of the village, is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, and consists of three aisles and a chancel, with a handsome tower steeple at the west end.

Among other monuments and memorials are the following: in the chancel, brasses for William Beaufitz and his wife; one for Francis Phillips, vicar. In the south chancel are brasses for the family of the Bamme's; another for Chrisagon Towle; also for the family of the Goulding's, and William Haward, of Granch. In the north chancel, belonging to the manor of Twidall, is a monument for Anthony Payneter, esq. of East court; and in the nave, brasses for William Godfrey and his two wives. In the *Registrum Roffensis* is an account of the painted glass remaining in the windows in 1621, when it appears, from the record in question, that the windows were most beautifully ornamented with subjects of scripture history, as well as the arms and names of the family of the Beaufitz's, most probably the principal benefactors. Besides historical subjects, there was the portrait of Robert Beaufitz, who lies in the chancel, with the coat of Gillingham, quarterly, *Ermine and gules;* also the portrait of John Beaufitz, the younger, with a garland of roses on his head, who lies buried in the north chapel.

In the chancel were formerly many brasses, with figures and arms for the family of the Beaufitz's; and in the niche over the

porch, at the west end of the church, stood the image of the Virgin Mary, commonly styled *Our Lady of Gillingham*, which was esteemed of such sanctity, that pilgrimages were anciently performed to her shrine.

The presentation to the vicarage continues in the possession of the principal and scholars of Brazen Nose college. In the 8th of Richard II., the church of Gillingham was valued at £40.

This vicarage was estimated in the king's books at £15 13 11½, and the yearly tenths at £1 11 4½. In a survey made of the ecclesiastical revenues in this diocese, in 1650, it was returned that, in Gillingham, there was a vicarage, presentative by the college of Brazen Nose, in Oxford, worth £48 per annum.

In the last census of the population for 1821, Gillingham, with the villes of Grange and Lidsing, contain 1068 dwellings; 3042 males, 3321 females, total 6363 souls.

THE HUNDRED OF AXSTANE

Lies southeastward from that of Dartford and Wilmington, and is called in the survey of Domesday *Achestan*, and in some ancient writings, *Clackstone*. In the 7th of Edward I. it was called by its present name, the king and the archbishop being then lords paramount of this hundred.

In the 20th of Edward III. *this hundred* answered for fourteen knight's fees and a half; and the fifth and fortieth part of a knight's fee.

It contains the parishes of Sutton at Hone, Darent, Stone, Swanscombe, Southfleet, Longfield, Fawkham, Hartley, Ridley, Ash, Kingdown excepting Woodland, Horton Kirkby, Farningham, Eynsford, and Lullingstone, with the churches of those parishes, and part of Cowden, the church of which is in another hundred.

Sutton at Hone was once so considerable, as to confer its name on the whole lath. It was called in Latin *Suthtuna*, from its situation south of the town of Dartford, and had the addition of *At Hone*, from lying low in the valley.

This parish contains about 3100 acres of land, of which 250 are wood. It is pleasantly situated as to the eastern part, in the vale, through which a branch of the river Darent runs, at the eastern boundary, near the turnpike road from Dartford to Farningham, where it continues to Sevenoak, passing through Hawley, and the village of Sutton, near which are most of the gentlemen's seats hereafter mentioned, with the parsonage and vicarage. Hence the ground rises westward to the hill with the church, which stands one field distant from the above road. The soil of this parish is in general light, stony, and much inclined to gravel, though there is a good deal of chalk in different parts. There is also some fertile land in the southern district, adjoining to Horton; but the western part, near the Farningham road, is extremely poor, and what is not, coppice wood,

mostly covered with heath and furze, especially about that part called the warren.

That curious naturalist, Abraham Hill, esq., lord of the manor of St. John's, about the year 1670, planted in an orchard adjoining his mansion, the most esteemed fruits from Devonshire and Herefordshire, both apples and pears, used in those counties for making cyder and perry, with the intent of introducing them among the orchards of this county; many are still remaining, among which are several trees of that scarce fruit called *the Kentish pippin*.

In the record of Domesday, Levenot de Sudtone is said to have had the privilege of *sac* and *soc* within the lathe of Sutton.

Robert Basing, in the reign of King John, gave to the Knight's Hospitallers the MANORS OF SUTTON AT HONE and HALGELL, now HAWLEY, in this parish. Elen de Saukevile, daughter of Ralph de Dene, gave all her lands of Lageham, in Penshurst, to the manor of Sutton. Ralph de Penshurst gave more lands and rents there to this manor; Nicholas, son of Nicholas de Twytham, gave rents, with their appurtenances, in the parish of Sutton; and Gilbert, son of William Hellis, also gave more lands and rents. In the 1st of Edward I. the prior of St. John had a confirmation of his liberties for his lands in Sutton at Hone.

This manor seems, by the ancient rentals, to have formerly been accounted but as an appendage to that possessed by the knights in Dartford, which was constantly styled *Manerium de Derteford cum Sutton at Hone*, which, besides the parishes of Dartford and Sutton, extended into those of Ash, Penshurst, Edenbridge, Chelsfield, and Nockbolt, as well as to Limpsfield, in Surrey.

The manor of Sutton continued part of the possessions of the Knight's Hospitallers, who had a *commandery* established here. There was a convenient mansion, of which they had several on their different estates, where a society of these knights were placed to take care of their rents and lands in the neighbourhood. They were allowed proper maintenance out of the revenues under their care, and the remainder was accounted for to the grand prior at London, in which state it remained till the dissolution, when Henry VIII. granted the office of

receiver general of the revenues of the late dissolved hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, in England, to Sir Maurice Denys, of a good family in Gloucestershire. The same prince, in his 35th year, also granted to Sir Maurice Denys St. John's, among other premises, this manor of Sutton at Hone, the chapel of Sutton, and other lands and premises belonging thereto, to hold *in capite* by knight's service.

In the reign of Elizabeth, Sir Maurice levied a fine of this manor, and two years after died possessed of the property, as appears by the inquisition taken after his death. Lady Elizabeth Denys, his widow, then became possessed of it, and died in the 19th year of that queen, and by will gave this manor to her only daughter, widow of Vincent Randyll, esq., and their two daughters, Catherine and Martha, who on their mother's death became possessed of it in undivided moieties. Martha carried her moiety in marriage to Thomas Cranfield, esq. of London, on whose death it devolved to their son, Sir Randyll Cranfield, who, in the 7th of Charles I. executed a *writ of partition* of this manor, with Sarah, countess of Leicester, and her son Sir John Smith, owner of the other moiety; when, each possessing part of the demesnes, as well as part of the services, either moiety became a separate manor.

That which was allotted to Cranfield retained the name of St. John's, otherwise SUTTON MANOR, including the *ancient mansion and chapel* of the Knights, while to this manor was allotted the court-leet usually held for the same. Sir Randyll Cranfield, by will in 1635, gave this manor to his son, Vincent Cranfield, esq., who by deed and fine, laid in 1649, passed it away to Mr. Thomas Hollis, merchant, of London; and he, with Elizabeth his wife, in 1660, sold it by fine and deed to Abraham Hill, esq., merchant of London. He, however, did not gain possession till 1667, and afterwards resided at St. John's, where he died in 1721, leaving by his first wife, a son Richard, and a daughter Frances.

Richard Hill survived his father but a few weeks, and dying without issue, this manor devolved to his sister, Mrs. Frances Hill, who resided here, and died possessed of the estate in 1736, unmarried, and was buried in the south aisle of Sutton church, having a most remarkable and singular epitaph on her monument. She by will gave this estate to her kinsman, William

Hill, esq. of Carwythinick, in Cornwall, who, in 1780, sold it to Mr. John Mumford, of Sutton place, who died in 1787, and by will devised this manor to his eldest son, William Mumford, esq. of this parish, and the mansion to his youngest son, John Mumford, esq., who was sheriff in 1796. Of the mansion, the north side only remains, formerly the chapel, which has long since been converted into the dwelling house, and was almost rebuilt in 1755.

THE OTHER MOIETY of the manor of St. John's, otherwise Sutton at Hone, since known by the name of SUTTON MANOR, was carried in marriage by Catherine, the other daughter of Vincent Randyll, to Robert Wrote, esq., whose son Francis, of Gunton, in Suffolk, conveyed it in the reign of King James, to Sir William Swan, of Southfleet, who passed it away in the same reign to George Cole, esq. of the Inner Temple, London. He, two years after, sold this moiety, with the moiety of the chapel of the late priory of St. John's, to Sir John Smith, second son of Customer Smith, of Westenhanger. He had been ambassador to the emperor of Russia, and afterwards resided at Brooke place, in this parish, where he died in 1625, as is conjectured of the plague, which raged here at that period. He lies buried in this church, under a most costly monument, having borne for his arms, *Azure, a chevron engrailed, or, between three lions passant, guardant of the second,* which he quartered with those of Judde, Chiche, Criol, Crevequer, Averanches, Chichele, and Stafford. He left by his third wife, (since married to Robert Sidney, earl of Leicester,) a son John, afterwards knighted, who, together with his mother, the countess of Leicester, executed their writ of partition, with Sir Randyll Cranfield, owner of the other moiety in the 7th of Charles I., as before mentioned.

That part allotted to the countess of Leicester, and her son, thus becoming a separate manor, with a court-baron appendant, acquired the name of the *manor of Sutton,* and after the death of the countess of Leicester, passed with Brook place, into the possession of Sir John Smith. He died, leaving by the Lady Isabella, daughter of the earl of Warwick, one son Robert, and a daughter Isabella, married to John lord Robartes, of Truro. Robert Smith, esq. was of Bounds, in Bidborough, and of Sutton, and married the Lady Dorothy Sidney, relict of Henry

earl of Sunderland, by whom he had one son Robert, of Sutton at Hone, who was governor of Dover castle, and died in 1695 possessed of this manor and Brook place, leaving Catherine his wife, and two sons surviving, Henry and William, to whom this estate descended in gavelkind.

In the 10th of King William, she, as guardian to her two infant sons, obtained an Act of Parliament for vesting this manor and seat in trustees, to sell the same, who accordingly in 1699 conveyed them to Sir John Lethieullier, of London.

The family of Lethieullier appears to have been of good account in France, as well as Germany, for some generations before it settled in England, supposed to have taken place in the reign of Elizabeth, when they fled hither to avoid the persecutions in those parts on account of their religion. John de Lethieullier was a merchant of London, and died at Lewisham, in 1679, leaving eight children, of whom John, the eldest, was a wealthy merchant of London, who served the office of sheriff in 1674, when he was knighted. He purchased this estate, and died in 1718, and was buried at Greenwich in a vault, over which there is a monument erected to his memory. He left two sons, John Lethieullier, esq., alderman of London, and William of Beckenham, and Sutton place, and three daughters: William, the second son, possessed Sutton manor. He left by his first wife, John, afterwards of Sutton place; Manning, of Lewisham; and William, who was of London, citizen and grocer. By his second wife he had one son Samuel, of Beckenham, and two daughters, Letitia and Leonora.

John Lethieullier, the eldest, succeeded his father in this manor, A.D. 1733; he was twice married, but left no issue, and, dying in 1760, gave all his estates to his wife Anne, who survived him. She (after some litigation in Chancery with Mary Browne, who had contested her right, but compromised the same by their deed in 1766,) conveyed them to Nathaniel Webb, esq. of Taunton, in Somersetshire, who, the following year, parted with Sutton place, and other lands belonging to these estates, but the manor of Sutton continued some time longer in his possession, till it was sold to Mr. John Mumford, of Sutton place, who died in 1787, and by will bequeathed it after his wife's death, to his second son, John Mumford, esq. of St. John's, who possessed it the same year. The manor of St.

John's, and that of Sutton, pay each a yearly feefarm rent of £1 7 2 to the crown.

SUTTON PLACE, formerly called *Brook place*, was, in the reign of Henry the VIII., the inheritance of Nicholas Statham, gent., after whose death, Elizabeth, his widow, carried it in marriage to Sir Maurice Denys. On his decease, in the 6th of Elizabeth, it went to his brother and heir at law, Sir Walter Denys, of Durhams, in Gloucestershire, who, with Richard Denys his son, in the 7th year of that reign, sold it to Rowland Haward, alderman of London. He passed it away to Martin Bowes, esq., who, in the 13th year of that reign, conveyed it to Ann Haddon, widow of Walter Haddon, esq., principal master of the Queen's court of Requests; and she sold it to George Cole, esq. of the Inner Temple, London, who, in the 20th of James I., alienated it, by the name of Sutton place, with all its appurtenances, to Sir Thomas Smith, who much improved and augmented this magnificent pile of building, first erected by Sir Maurice Denys. This mansion remained in the descendants of Sir Thomas Smith as already mentioned, till Catherine, widow of Robert Smith, esq., and Henry Smith, their son, in 1699, conveyed it to Sir John Lethieullier, who being informed, (for he never saw it,) that this mansion was, from its size, too great an incumbrance to the estate, ordered part to be pulled down, which was most injudiciously done, as the curtailment, in a great measure, destroyed the magnificence and beauty of the structure.

From Sir John Lethieullier it passed in like manner, with Sutton manor, to Anne, widow of his grandson, John Lethieullier, esq., who, with Mary Browne, before mentioned, sold it, in 1766, to Nathaniel Webb, esq. He, the next year, conveyed Sutton place to Mr. John Mumford, who having pulled down a portion, modernised the remainder, covering it with white stucco; and having thus improved the mansion, as well as grounds and gardens, afterwards resided there. He died in 1787, leaving two sons and three daughters; William, now of Sutton place; and John, of St. John's, in this parish, sheriff of this county in 1796. Mr. Mumford, by his will, bequeathed this seat to his widow, for her life, who resided there with her son, William, to whom, after her death, he devised this residence.

Hawley is a hamlet situated at the northern extremity of this parish, adjoining to Wilmington; it was anciently called *Hagelei*, and esteemed part of the manor of Dartford, the king's ancient demesne, but before taking the survey of Domesday it was separated, as appears from the description in the manor of Dartford. Odo bishop of Bayeux had then possession of the estate, as appears by the before-mentioned survey, and when among the lands of that prelate, was so entered in that record. On his disgrace it passed to Henry de Port, who, in 1108, being the 8th of Henry II., with the consent of Hawis his wife, and Hugh his son, gave, in perpetual alms, to the church of Rochester, all his tithes of Hagelei, of which that church previously possessed one moiety of his gift. It appears afterwards to have been owned by the family of the Basing's, one of whom, Robert Basing, in the reign of King John, gave Sutton and this manor of Hagelei to the knights of St. John of Jerusalem, commonly called the Knight's Hospitallers, with whom it continued till their dissolution, in the 32d of Henry VIII. It has long since been merged in the manor of Sutton at Hone, in the possession of John Mumford, esq. There was a subordinate manor in Hawley, formerly known by the name of Haw Sawters, otherwise Sapters, which, in the reign of Edward III., was held by the noble family of Hastings. Laurence de Hastings, earl of Pembroke, died possessed of it under Edward III., whose grandson, John de Hastings, was unfortunately killed at a tournament, at Woodstock, in the 13th of Richard II., and dying without issue, left Philippa, his wife, surviving, who marrying Richard Fitzalan, earl of Arundel, he had this manor in dowry with her. She survived her husband some years, and on her death, in the 2d of Henry IV., this manor, by virtue of an entail made by John Hastings, earl of Pembroke, under Edward III., in the event of no issue, devolved to his cousin, William de Beauchamp, baron Bergavenny. He died in the 12th of Henry IV., and was succeeded by his son, Richard Beauchamp, who was, under Henry V., created earl of Worcester, and soon after slain in France, leaving by Isabel his wife, one sole daughter and heir, Elizabeth, married to Edward Nevill, a younger son of Ralph earl of Westmoreland, who had possession granted of the lands of her inheritance; he survived his wife, and died

under Edward IV. possessed of this manor of Sawters. How long it continued in that family we do not find, but in the 1st of Henry VIII. John Poulter was in possession of the property, descended from a family originally of Loughborough, in Leicestershire, in the time of Henry II., and afterwards settled at Hitchin, in Hertfordshire; which bore for its arms, *Argent, two bendlets sable, in chief, a cornish chough proper.* His daughter Anne carried it in marriage to Thomas Mayo, who was possessed of it in the beginning of the reign of Elizabeth. After passing through a variety of names, it then became the inheritance of Richard Leigh, esq. sergeant at law, deceased, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. John Mumford, of Sutton, by whom he had two sons and one daughter.

There are two other houses in Hawley of some account, one near Dartford, built by Mr. Holland, whose daughter carried it in marriage to Edward Fowke, esq., who died in 1789, and devised it to his brother, Mr. Francis Fowke, who subsequently owned the same.

The other seat, nearer Sutton, was rebuilt by Samuel Percival, esq., on whose decease it became the property of rear-admiral Robert Robinson, esq. of Eltham, after which it was sold to Thomas Frazer, esq.

HIGHLANDS is a manor in this parish, westward from Hawley, adjoining to Wilmington, so called from its high situation.

This manor seems, from the earliest times, to have had the same possessors as the adjoining manor of Rowehill, in Wilmington.

Anselm de Gyse had a charter of *free warren* granted to him and his heirs for his lands in Wilmington and Sutton, under Edward I., and died the following year. His great grandson, in the 8th of Edward II., sold it to Simon Franceys, a wealthy citizen of London, who died possessed of it in the 32d of Edward III., as appears by the escheat rolls of that year.

Who the intermediate owners were, we cannot find; but, in the reign of Henry VIII., it was in the possession of Sir Thomas Moyle, who gave it in marriage with his youngest daughter Amy, to Sir Thomas Kempe, of Ollantigh, on whose decease it passed to his eldest son, Sir Thomas Kempe, when he conveyed this manor to his brother, Mr. Reginald Kempe, who sold it at

the latter end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth to Launcelot Bathurst, alderman of London, and of Franks, in this neighbourhood. In his descendants it continued to Francis Bathurst, esq. of Franks, who died possessed of it in 1738, leaving an only daughter and heir Beronice, married to Mr. Joseph Fletcher, of London, when their only daughter and heir Susan, carried it in marriage to John Tasker, esq., who, surviving his wife before mentioned, sold it in 1766 to John Calcraft, esq. of Ingress; on whose death, in 1772, it became by his will the inheritance of his son, John Calcraft, esq., by whom it was sold to John Mumford, esq. of this parish, who subsequently owned the estate.

This manor is held of that of Lewisham, for which there is a *court-baron*, several lands in the western part of Sutton being also held of the same.

Gilden Hill, now called *Gilton Hill*, lies west of Sutton street, and was formerly accounted a manor, great part having belonged to the priory of Dartford, at the dissolution, when it fell into the hands of Henry VIII., who, in his 32d year, granted to Sir Percival Hart, among other premises, all the manors formerly possessed by Henry Humphry, and afterwards by John Waller in Gilden Hill, and Swanley in Sutton, to hold *in capite* by knight's service, on whose death, under Elizabeth, they descended to George Hart, esq., his son and heir.

In the following year, under James I., Sir Oliver Boteler, of Teston, possessed this farm and lands, and his descendant, Sir Philip, of Teston, bart., died possessed of them in 1772, and by will devised one moiety of his estates to Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Chart Sutton, and the other to Elizabeth viscountess dowager of Folkestone, and William Bouverie, earl of Radnor. On their partition of the property, this farm and lands of Gilden Hill fell to the share of the Lady Folkestone, who died in 1782, and was succeeded in them by her only son, the Hon. Philip Bouverie, who afterwards took the name of Pusey.

Swanley is a considerable hamlet in this parish, lying at the south-west extremity, north of which is a seat called *Hackstaple*, formerly *Exstapull* in ancient records.

Roger Rothele, of Dartford, died possessed of this seat in the 11th of Edward IV., and Sir John Wiltshire possessed it in the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII. It was afterwards owned

by the family of the Killingsworth's, from which it went with Elizabeth, sole daughter and heir of George Killingsworth, to Christopher Eglesfield, gent., in the reign of Elizabeth. One of his descendants, Francis Eglesfield, of London, gent., passed it by sale, under Charles I., to Mr. Christopher Searle, whose descendant, of the same name, conveyed it in 1733 to Mr. Charles Egerton, of London. On his death, in 1747, this seat and estate went to his eldest son, John Egerton, of Hadleigh, whose widow subsequently possessed it. The priory of Bermondsey, otherwise called St. Saviour's, Southwark, possessed certain lands at Gilden Hall, called Bermondsey lands, with Monkyns, or Monkslands, in Sutton, Ferningham, and Eynesford.

SUTTON AT HONE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *deanery* of Dartford, and *diocese* of Rochester. The church is a handsome building, consisting of two aisles and a chancel, dedicated to St. John the Baptist. It was burnt down the 27th of April, 1615, by a person firing off a gun at a bird that had taken shelter in the edifice; from which time till April 21, 1617, all baptisms were solemnized at Darent.

Among other monuments in this church, are the following: in the chancel a memorial for Thomas Gifford, one to the family of the Stacy's, of Deptford, another for Mrs. Frances Hill and Abraham Hill, esq. of St. John's, in this parish. On the south side is a most stately monument, whereon, under an arch richly ornamented, lies the figure of a man at full length, in his robes, his head resting on a cushion; the whole finely executed, and over him an inscription for Sir Thomas Smith, of Sutton place, in this parish, governor of the East Indies, and first undertaker in 1612 of the north-west passage, obiit 1625. There are also other memorials for this family, and a curious tomb for a person named Puckletongue. Under a pew in the north aisle, is a vault for the family of the Hawley's, and in the churchyard a vault and monument for John Lethieullier, esq. of Sutton place, and his two wives; and another, with a vault, for the family of the Percival's, of Hawley. There are likewise vaults for the Saunderson's, of Gillingham, and the Searle's of Hackstable.

In the 15th of Edward I. the church of Sutton was valued at thirty-five marks, and the vicarage at one hundred shillings.

In 1821, there were 157 dwellings in the parish of Sutton at Hone; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 414, females 449, making a total of 863 souls.

Eastward from Sutton lies DARENT, sometimes spelt *Darenth*, and usually called *Darne*. The name of this parish is written in some ancient records *Darente* and *Deorwent*, and in Domesday and other records *Tarent*. It takes its name from the river DARENT running through the district. This place was sometimes called NORTH DARENT, to distinguish it from the neighbouring parish or hamlet of SOUTH DARENT.

The soil is by no means fertile, great part being of a light chalk, covered with flint stones, and is considered more healthy than pleasant. The river Darent took its course in its ancient and proper channel, along the western boundaries, but great part of the waters having been turned for the sake of private interests, it proceeds with another stream through the adjoining parish of Sutton. The old river has been neglected, and the passage across is in a bad state, and frequently dangerous for travellers. Near the eastern bank is situated the village of Darent, at the northern part of which is a house, inhabited and possessed for some time by the family of the Taylor's; and a little higher up, on the side of a hill, having the church opposite, is a seat, which was rebuilt by William Lee, esq., surveyor of the navy, in the reign of Queen Anne. He resided here, and married Catherine, daughter of William Johnson, esq., and died in 1757, devising this seat to his kinsman, rear-admiral Ward, of Greenwich, whose daughter, some years ago, sold it to Edward Fowke, esq., who conveyed it to Mr. Nathaniel Hodges, in whose assignees it became vested. Behind the church, southward, stands the court lodge, a good old timbered house, occupied by the lessee of the manor. Hence, towards the east, the hill rises, extending across the parish, to the southward of which is the manor house of St. Margaret's, with the ruins of the ancient chapel, consisting of nothing more than the lower part of a square tower. This fragment is, however, interesting, on account of the layers of Roman bricks to be seen in the walls, and in the arch of the doorway, which is wholly constructed of

that curious material. In the valley, on the opposite side of the hill, is a long common, called Greenstreet green, more than a mile in length, having houses interspersed along the same, especially at the south end, where they form a hamlet, in which there is a mansion called the CLOCK HOUSE, formerly the property and residence of Edmund Davenport, esq., who kept his shrievalty for the county here in 1694. He was a good benefactor to the church of Darent, where he lies buried, and was succeeded by a family of the name of Bedford, the last of whom sold it to Sir Timothy Waldo, of London, since deceased, whose daughter married George Medley, esq., when his heirs subsequently became entitled to the same.

A little northward of the Clock House, on the green, are the remains of several small *barrows*, or *tumuli*, and near them many vestiges of breastworks thrown up. This might probably have been the spot where the battle was fought, near the banks of the Darent, by Vortimer and his Britons, with the Saxons. Here is also a fortification thrown up in the wood, about three quarters of a mile eastward from this place, where, it is probable, the Saxons awaited the rencontre.

At the opposite or northern end of the green, towards Dartford Brent, stands a house called the GORE, formerly a gentleman's residence, which belonged to William Lee, esq. abovementioned, who left it to rear-admiral Ward, when it afterwards became the property of his son, Edward Vernon Ward, esq. A short distance beyond is Trundle down, or more properly Tyrling down, formerly an estate of the Cobham's, as appears by the escheat rolls of the 38th of Edward III. There was a younger branch of the family of the Dixon's, of Hilden, in Tunbridge, for some generations settled in this parish, as it appears by the Heraldic visitation, under date 1619, they held lands of St. Margaret's manor.

In the 15th of Edward I. this manor was valued at £16 8 0. A court-leet and court-baron is held yearly for this manor.

In 1649 there was a survey taken by order of the State, of the manor of Darenth, with the rectory or parsonage appendant thereto, which had been let under Charles I. to Elizabeth and Ellen Harvey, daughters of William lord Harvey, at the yearly rent of £20 8 0; they were, however, returned to be worth together, over and above that rent, £169 13 6 per annum.

They continued many years in the family of the Harvey's, till George earl of Bristol sold his interest to the occupier, Mr. William Farrant, after the death of whose son, in 1788, Mr. Christopher Chapman became the lessee. Jeffry Haddenham, about the year 1300, bought lands in Darent, and gave the rents to the use of the altar of St. Edmund in Criptis, which he had instituted in the church of Rochester.

About a mile southeastward from Darent church is the hamlet of HELLES ST. MARGARET, commonly called ST. MARGARET'S HILLS. This appears, by the court rolls, to have been once a parish of itself, to which belonged the hamlets of Gills, Greensted green, and South Darent; how it came to be annexed to Darent will be mentioned hereafter. St. Margaret's, with the hamlets above named, were in the possession of Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the title of whose lands they were entered in Domesday record.

This manor afterwards passed to the possession of a family called Hells, which had also much land at Dartford and Ash, near Sandwich; and from that name this place acquired the appellation of Hells, or Hilles. One of the family, Thomas de Helles, had a charter of *free warren* granted for his lands here and at Dartford, in the 17th of Edward I.; one of whose descendants was possessed of this manor under Henry VIII. He left a sole daughter and heir, Anne, who carried it in marriage to Henry Melhard, who left two daughters and coheirs, Alice and Joan, and they divided the estate between them.

Those moieties continued separate and in different hands for some time, till they became united in Mr. Thomas Rolt, about the reign of Charles II., when passing through many names, they, in 1788, ultimately vested in Mr. Christopher Chapman, who resided at the manor house.

A court-baron is held for this manor, several lands in the hamlets of Hills, Greensted, Gills, and South Darent, being held of the same. The manor is held of the manor of Darent, by the yearly rent of £1 18.

There is an estate in Darent, and though now of small account, was once reputed a manor, called CLEYNDON, which in early times had proprietors of the same name, but in the reign of Edward III., was owned by the family of the Hastings'. John de Hastings, earl of Pembroke, died possessed of it in the 49th

year of that reign, and was succeeded by his son, John; on his death, without issue, his wife, Philippa, held Cleyndon, and died in the reign of Henry IV. In the 11th of Edward IV., Roger Rothele, of Dartford, owned this estate, and sold it to Thomas Crephedge, whose grandson conveyed it by sale to Sir Robert Blage, one of the barons of the Exchequer, when his widow carried it again in marriage to Sir Richard Walden. After passing to several other names, it was ultimately, in 1691, in the possession of Mr. Leigh, but we find nothing of it since, or where it was situated.

DARENT is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and being a *peculiar* of the archbishop of Canterbury, is as such within the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church, a small building, is dedicated to St. Margaret, and consists of two aisles and a chancel, both very ancient, especially the latter, which terminates in three small lancet windows; and, with respect to its construction, is perhaps unique in this diocese; the steeple at the west end of the south aisle is pointed, and contains three bells. The chancel is divided by steps into two parts, of different widths, the higher is vaulted and paved with black marble, having been the gift of Mr. Edward Davenport, in 1680, who also presented some silver plate for the altar. The Rev. Mr. Denne and the late Mr. Thorpe supposed this church to be of Saxon workmanship. The font bears high marks of antiquity, presenting a single stone rounded and excavated, composed of eight compartments, adorned by columns, alternately circular and angular, with semi-circular arches; the figures on the compartments are in high relief, and rudely carved, some of which appear to be chimerical, and others symbols of the sacraments and various religious offices.

Among other monuments and inscriptions are the following: on the south side, a memento for the wife of George Elliston, of London. In the chancel, on the south side, a small monument for John Weaver, esq. of North Luffenham, in Rutlandshire; and a memorial for Humphrey Taylor. On the upper stone step, next the rails before the altar, are these words, "*Ex dono* Edmund Davenport, 1680." Another very ancient brass plate, placed on the south side of the wall, in the south aisle, over the remains of John Crepehege, with many others, too numerous for insertion. In the 15th of Edward I., the

church of Darent was exchanged with the manor, as before mentioned, by Hubert archbishop of Canterbury, with the monks of Rochester, for the manor of Lambeth, in 1195. In the 15th of Edward I., this church was valued at ten marks; and under Richard II., at the same sum. Darent was a discharged living, of the clear yearly value of £45, the annual tenths being 19s. 10½d.

The hamlet of St. Margaret's Hilles appears, from several ancient evidences and court rolls, as to its temporal jurisdiction, to have been once a parish distinct from that of Darent. However, as to its ecclesiastical jurisdiction, it was always accounted but as a chapel to Darent.

By the decree of Archbishop Peckham, the vicar of Darent was to find one chaplain to celebrate divine offices in this chapel of Helles; and in the reign of Henry VIII., there was a composition entered into between the vicar of Darent and the inhabitants of the precincts of this chapel, which was confirmed by Archbishop Warham, in 1522: therein it was decreed, that the vicar of Darent should celebrate divine offices, on certain days therein specified; that he should administer extreme unction, if desired, to the sick inhabitants, and all other offices appertaining thereto. This chapel, however, falling to decay, Cardinal Pole, in 1557, united the precinct of St. Margaret to the parish of Darent.

In 1821, there were ninety-four dwellings in the parish of Darent; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 292, females 282, making a total of 574 souls.

Northeastward from Darent lies Stone, deriving the name from its stony situation; *Stane* in Saxon signifying a stone. It is called in the *Textus Roffensis Stantune* and *Stanes*, and in Domesday record, *Estanes*.

This parish contains about 2700 acres of land, of which 250 are wood, and about 320 marsh lands. It is about seventeen miles from London, and two from Dartford; the high London road crosses the district. A small distance northward is the village, situated, as well as the church, on the side of a hill, rising from the bank of the Thames; westward hence,

about half a mile, is the parsonage; and, below, the marshes, bounded by the river. This parish consists of continued hill and dale, the views of the Thames and the opposite county of Essex being beautiful, as you pass the high road, where stands the hamlet of Horns cross. The soil is gravelly, and not far hence, on the northern side, is a great range of chalk pits, and wharfs on the bank of the river, for the exportation of that article. Thence the ground rises, having Stone castle about two fields distant, the prospect from which, over the river, is beautiful; and behind it stretches, over hill and dale, far southward, over a good strong land. The great tract of woodland, reaching almost to Greenstreet green, adjoining Darent, along the northern boundary of these woods, contains the ancient Roman road to Rochester; not far from which are the two small hamlets of Bean and Stone wood. On the hill, above Greenstreet green, among the woods, are the remains of a camp and fortifications thrown up in ancient times, but now so overgrown with wood and rubbish as to be impenetrable. Near the south-east boundary of the parish, half a mile up the road, leading from Greenstreet green to Betsham, on the left of the short hill, there is *Cockleshell Bank*, so called from the numbers of those shells found there; previously to the gaining the pond on the same side, they appear very visible, lying close and thick together, of a pure white, and for the most part whole, forming a *stratum* of a foot deep. As they are washed down the banks by rains and thaws, the become discoloured by the earth, a kind of reddish loam, and crumble into small pieces. The *stratum* appears to have extended to the opposite bank, by the fragments of shells on that side also, although not so visible by the deep road intersecting the same. These bivalve shells are in depth about three fourths of an inch, and the same in breadth, with rays running transversely, very small and close, contrary to those of the common cockle, which are longitudinal and deep furrowed. In the *Custumale Roffensis* is inserted a letter from Dr. John Latham, F.R.S. concerning these shells, and another *stratum* of the turbinated kind, at a small distance from the other.

Strata of shells appear to run at a distance from the places above mentioned, and extend towards Greenhithe, as in the fields behind the large farmhouse, in this parish, on the north

side of Greenstreet green, belonging to Sir John Dyke, the plough frequently turned up a great quantity of fragments; and in the back yard of a house, on the south side of the green, was a large mass of stone, of some hundred weight, full of shells, conveyed from a field near the house, used as a bridge or stepway in the yard. Strata of these marine *exuviæ* have been observed at several other places, in some ground belonging to the manor of Baldwin's in Dartford, and also at Bexley, when digging a well at Mr. Cope's seat, at Brigden, where, at the depth of twenty feet, a *stratum* of shells was found, chiefly of the turbinated kind, continuing about two feet in depth, and then disappearing before they got to the springs; specimens also of the same kind have been frequently met with down Park hill, by the woodside, towards Gadbridge.

A fair is held in the village, on Ascension day, for pedlary. Mathew Paris, in his History of England, relates a strange story of a miracle which happened in this parish in 1252, concerning a boy, named William Crul, who, at two years old, cured all diseases, by making the sign of the cross upon the patients, who flocked to him from all the neighbouring parts; not long after which he died.

Ethelred king of England, in 995, gave Stantune and Litlebroc to the church of St. Andrew and Godwyn then bishop of Rochester.

After the Conquest, this place was seized, with many others, by Odo bishop of Bayeux, who did not long retain possession, as Archbishop Lanfranc recovered it in the assembly held at Pinenden heath in 1076, and immediately restored them to the church of St. Andrew.

In the 15th of Edward I., this manor, with the hamlet, was taxed at £33 6 8; and in the 33d of Henry III., at the same sum. The bishops of Rochester frequently halted here on their journeys to and from London. Bishop Gilbert de Glanvill, who came to the see in 1185, rebuilt the house and buildings, which had been burnt down. Bishop Hamo de Heth, in 1333, gave orders for the building a new wall against the Thames; and in 1337, he repaired the buildings of this manor, at a great expense. In their successors, bishops of Rochester, this manor continued, and is at this time part of the possessions of the right reverend the bishop of the diocese.

The manor house is situated near the churchyard, and has been long inhabited by the farmer of the demesne lands, the only vestige of the ancient mansion, which seems never to have been dignified with the name of a palace, is the great chimney in the centre of the present building; it is in the possession of lord Romney.

LITTLEBROOKE is a manor and hamlet in this parish, which in ancient charters is styled *Littlebroc* and *Lyttanbroce.* It was once an appendage to the manor of Stone, as mentioned before, and different lands therein were given at various periods to the church of Rochester.

The manor of Littlebrooke, in the reign of Edward III., was held of the bishop by Laurence Brooke, who died possessed of it in the 3d of Edward I. Roger Norwood owned it at his decease, in the 13th year of that reign, and Sir John Norwood died possessed of it in the 38th of King Edward III. In the 3d of Henry IV., John Loffwyke possessed this manor; soon after which, it was held by the family of the Apylton's. Thomas Apylton was the owner of the estate in the reign of Henry VII., and his grandson, Henry, was of this county, and of South Bemfleet, in Essex, who died possessed of it in the 38th of Henry VIII., holding it of the bishop of Rochester, by knight's service. In his descendants, seated at South Bemfleet, this manor continued down to Sir Henry Appleton, bart., for so the name was then spelt, who on the death of his father, Sir William, became entitled to the manor of Littlebrooke, and died in 1709, as did Lady Appleton, his mother, in 1719; the branch of the family seated in this county and Essex bore for its arms, *Argent, a fess engrailed,* (originally plain,) *sable between three apples leafed, and slipped proper.* Soon after this manor was conveyed by sale to one Stone, which name ended in two daughters and coheirs, Mary, married to William Lownds; and Anne, who espoused Thomas, second son of Archbishop Potter; the latter of whom, in right of his wife, became possessed of Littlebrooke. This estate was afterwards owned for more than a century, by a wealthy family named Ward; Mr. John Ward held it during the troubles after the death of Charles I., and being a steady loyalist, his stock, which then amounted to £5000, was seized and sequestered, for

the use of the state; his descendant, Mr. Thomas Ward, was afterwards lessee.

Stone castle is an ancient castellated seat in this parish, standing on an eminence a small distance southward from the high road from London to Dover. The square tower at the east end is the only part that bears the appearance of its ever having been a fortress. It had once the reputation of a manor, as appears by the book of aid, in the 20th of Edward III., when Sir John de Northwood answered for the manor of Stone castle as half a knight's fee, which Henry de Northwood before held in Stone, of the bishop of Rochester.

It subsequently passed to a family of the name of Bonevant, or Bontfant, one of whom, Richard Bontfant, mercer of London, was possessed of it in the reign of Henry VI., and died owner of the same in the 37th of King Henry VI. Nicholas Bonevant died in 1516, and lies buried, with Agnes his wife, in Swanscombe church. From this name the seat passed into that of Chambley, and thence again, under Henry VIII., to Robert Chapman; when, after passing to several other families, it became the property of Dr. Thomas Plume, archdeacon of Rochester. He devised by will about £18,000, to be laid out in lands, for the maintenance of a professor of astronomy and experimental philosophy in Cambridge; and bequeathed Stone castle, with the estate belonging thereto, and a farm at Tudely in this county, to charitable uses; in the feoffees of which it now remains.

The purposes of this trust were for the preaching twenty-six sermons, in the summer half-year, every Wednesday, alternately at Dartford and Gravesend; and also for the augmentation of such poor parsonages and vicarages within the diocese of Rochester, as were under £60 per annum; but it was provided that no living should have above £10 in one year, and that Town Malling should always rank as one.

Cotton is a manor, once in the possession of a family of the same name, John atte Coten having possessed it in the reign of Edward I.; Jeffrey de Cotton, son of Hugh, and his coparceners, were owners of the estate in the 20th of Edward III., at which time they paid aid for it in the book, of which they are charged for one fourth part of a knight's fee, which

Drawn by Fussell.

Engraved by Mottram.

STONE CASTLE NEAR GRAVESEND.

KENT.

THE SEAT OF ROBT TALBOT ESQ.R

John de Cotton, of Stone, held in Stone of the bishop of Rochester. This family bore for its arms, *A chevron between three griffins' heads erased.*

At the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII., this manor had become the property of the family of the Killingworth's, one of whom conveyed it to Sir John Wiltshire, comptroller of the town and marches of Calais. He died in 1526, leaving a daughter and heir, Bridget, who carried it in marriage to Sir Richard Wingfield, K.G., twelfth son of Sir John Wingfield, of Letheringham, in Suffolk, at which place his ancestors were seated in the reign of Edward II., and in the church of the parish many of them lie buried; they bore for their arms, *Argent on a bend, gules between two cotizes sable, three pair of wings joined in lure of the first.* He was nobly descended from the lords Montfitchet and Bovile, Glanvile earl of Suffolk. He was chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, and of the bedchamber to Henry VIII., who gave him Kimbolton castle, where he afterwards resided, having named him of his privy council, and sent him ambassador to Spain, where he died, and was buried at Toledo.

The manor of Cotton was demised under Queen Elizabeth, but by whom we do not find, for the term of 1000 years, to William Cecil lord Burleigh and Sir Francis Walsingham, who parted with their interest therein to one Heron, who conveyed it to a Harrington, and he passed away his title to Edward Cason and Thomas Woodward. They, in the 8th of King James I., sold it to John Manning, citizen and skinner of London, whose son, John Manning, esq. was of Warbleton, in Sussex, and died without issue; upon which his two sisters became his coheirs; Anne, marrying Sir Thomas Lawley, bart.; and Elizabeth, first espousing Robert Cesar, esq., and secondly, Francis, second son of Thomas lord Coventry; and they, in right of their wives, possessed this manor in undivided moieties. Sir Thomas Lawley was succeeded by Sir Francis, his eldest son, who, in 1685, sold his moiety to Francis Coventry, esq., son and heir of Francis and Elizabeth his wife, who then possessed the whole estate, and died unmarried in 1686. It then descended to his sister, married to Sir William Keyt, bart. of Ebrington in Gloucestershire, when this estate descended to his grandson, who died during his life. He conveyed the manor of

Cotton, in 1716, to Launcelot Tolsen, gent. of the Middle Temple, London, who devised it by will to John Simpson, esq. of Canterbury, and he died in 1748. He left the property to his wife, Mrs. Mary Simpson, of Canterbury, who died in 1777, when this estate fell to the possession of her devisee, Baptist Simpson, esq.

STONE PLACE is an estate which, for many generations, was the residence of families of some account; it was, in ancient times, possessed by the line of the Norwood's, owners of Stone castle and Littlebrooke, in this parish. It afterwards devolved to the possession of Sir John Wiltshire, who rebuilt the mansion; and his only daughter and heir, Bridget, carried it in marriage, with the manor of Cotton, to Sir Richard Wingfield, as already mentioned.

It afterwards passed to the family of the Dudley's, who resided here; by an only daughter and heir of which race it went in marriage to Henry Parker, of Whitchurch, in Cheshire. From this name it passed to that of Evans, and thence, by the heir general, to a Massingbeard, one of which ancient family owned it in 1656. It thence passed to the Maniford's, a sole daughter and heir of which line, Martha, carried it in marriage to Mr. William Hawe, who sold it to one Malinis, and his widow marrying Mr. John Sedgewick, he possessed it in her right. Soon after it was sold to Thomas Tryon, esq. of Chiselhurst; after the death of whose widow, her assigns sold it to Mr. William Tuckey, of Greenhithe.

The gatehouse to this seat is still standing; the buildings appear to have been very grand and spacious, the ceilings of several of the rooms being finished with oaken wainscot, and over the gatehouse are carved the arms of the Wingfield's.

STONE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a beautiful structure, consisting of a nave, with two side aisles, and a chancel; it is spacious and lofty, the windows large and regular, and, for symmetry of proportion, it may be justly reckoned the finest piece of Gothic architecture in the diocese. It has a large square tower at the west end, containing five bells; it had formerly a spire steeple, which was so far damaged by lightning in 1638, that it was taken down. The chancel has a double roof, and though now of great

height, seems once to have been still loftier. It is ornamented on both sides with ancient stalls, curiously carved and adorned, as well as the church, with pilasters of brown marble; the whole was, some years back, at a great expense, supplied with a new ceiling, repaired, and ornamented. At the east end of the north side was once a handsome vestry, which has been long in ruins, and the north door is curiously wrought with zigzag ornaments and mouldings. Adjoining the church was a beautiful chapel, built by Sir John Wiltshire, of Stone place, which has lain in ruins for many years. A large passage having been broken through the midst of the pavement into the vault beneath, there were found the remains of the coffins of Sir John Wiltshire and his lady, with the bones scattered about. This costly and curious monument was erected against the north wall near the east end of the structure.

In this church are many monuments and inscriptions: *in the chancel*, a mural monument for Robert Talbot, and a brass plate for William Carew. On a gravestone is a brass of curious workmanship, representing a cross flory mounted on four steps; in the centre of the flower is the figure of a priest, with a label in his mouth, and inscription round the bordure of the flower. On the body of the cross and steps is an inscription for John Lambarde, rector of Stone, obiit March 12th, 1408; on either side of which was a shield of arms, now lost. Another somewhat similar, but the inscription gone, which Weever supposes to have been for John Sorewell, rector of this church; and another for Anne Carew, of Stone castle. Over the door of the chapel, on the north side, is a mural monument, with the figures of a man and his wife kneeling at double desks, with two sons and eight daughters, for Robert Chapman, esq. of London, who died at Stone castle, 1574. In Weever's time were the following memorials, on brass plates, since destroyed: one for Richard Bonfant, of London, owner of Stone castle; another for Roger Payname; and a third for William Banknot. In the chapel, now in ruins, there still remains, against the north side, the fine altar tomb of the founder, under a stone arch, richly adorned with Gothic work; in front of which are three shields of arms, with the figure of a man, having a label in his mouth, now lost, as well as the inscription, which, as Weever has preserved it, was for Sir John Wiltshire, and

Margaret his wife; he died in 1526. Thomas, sixth son of Thomas Berkley, in the time of Henry VIII., also lies buried in this structure.

This church being an appendage to the manor, was given in 925 to Bishop Godwin, and the church of Rochester, since which it has remained part of the possessions of that see.

In the 15th of Edward I. the church of Stone was valued at thirty marks, and the vicarage at seven.

By virtue of a *commission of inquiry*, issuing out of Chancery, it was returned that Stone was a parsonage, having a good house, and eight acres of glebe land, worth in the whole £170 per annum; that one Master Thomas Martyn, enjoyed it as a sequestration of Mr. Richard Chase, clerk. It was valued in the king's books at £26 10 0, the yearly tenths being £2 13 0.

In 1821 there were ninety-five dwellings in the parish of Stone; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 279, females 235, making a total of 514 souls.

Eastward from STONE lies SWANSCOMBE, so called from the camp of Swane, king of Denmark, who, having sailed up the Thames, landed at Greenhithe, and marching thence, encamped at this place; *Combe* and *Campe*, in Saxon, being derived from *Campus*, in Latin signifying a camp.

It is written in some records *Swegenscomp*, *Swaneskampe*, and in Domesday *Swiniscamp*. The high road from London to Dover crosses the northern part of this parish, which extends much higher to the southward, among a large tract of woodlands. It contains in the whole 2300 acres, of which 600 are wood, and 250 marsh lands. On the north side of the road is a large range of chalk pits, and lower down the hamlet of Greenhithe, called in the *Textus Roffensis*, *Gretenersie*, close to the shore of the river Thames. Here are several wharfs for the landing and shipping corn, wood, coals, and other commodities, but the chief traffic is derived from the chalk and lime dug in the above pits, the range of which continues, with little intermission, from Stone to Gravesend, within a small distance of the shore. Hence not only the city of London, but the adjacent counties, and even Suffolk and Norfolk, are supplied with that

commodity. There is a ferry across the Thames into Essex, for horses and cattle only, which anciently belonged to the priory of Dartford, at the suppression of which, under Henry VIII., it was granted to John Bene, for a term of years, and afterwards by Elizabeth, in her 2d year, with the manor of Swanscombe, granted to Anthony Weldon, in fee; since which it has continued with the possessors of this manor.

There was formerly a chapel founded by John Lucas, of Greenhithe, who, in the 19th of Edward III. obtained the king's licence to assign over a piece of ground, and twenty acres of pasture in this parish, to a chaplain, for the celebration of divine offices daily in the chapel, in honour of the Virgin. This was suppressed under Edward VI., and some of the walls remained; but, being converted into a tenement, no outward appearance is now apparent.

At the east end is the seat of Ingress, situated close beneath the chalk cliffs, on the bank of the Thames, along which it commands a most beautiful view; the pleasure grounds are formed over the remains of an extensive range of chalk cliffs, which form an inequality of soil beyond what any art or expense could present or attain. We understand the mansion has been pulled down. Above the London road, on the southern side, is a neat modern house, called Knockholt, built by one of the family of the Hayes's, of Cobham, the last of whom, Mr. Bonham Hayes, left it by will to Mr. Butler, of Deal, who now owns it. Contiguous are two small hamlets, called Milton street, and Weston cross. From the above road the ground rises southward to the village of Swanscombe, at the west end of which is the mansion of the manor; part having been pulled down, it is used as a farm-house; and at a short distance is the parsonage and church. Round the village are some tolerable good lands, though rather inclined to be gravelly, and also some orchards. Above the village the soil rises still higher, being covered with a large tract of woodland, the earth of which is a stiff clay. These woods impede the current of air, and occasion the fogs and noisome vapours arising from the marshes which hang among them, and, descending on the village and lowlands, render this parish extremely unhealthy. Part of the woods within is known by the name of Swanscombe park, in which, and other parts near, are several mounds of

earth thrown up, apparently the work of very ancient times. They are all elevated, some having a hollow at the top, but none are more than thirty or forty yards over. The old Roman road runs along the southern part of this wood. Dr. Thorpe supposed that Swanscombe was the *Vagniacæ* of the Romans, and that their station here was at the head of the fleet, which parts this parish and Northfleet, on which subject the reader will find further mention hereafter, under the head of Southfleet. Some years back a copper coin of Nero was dug out of a hedge-row in this parish, and another of Severus was turned up by the plough, sufficiently corroborating that the Romans had intercourse in or near this place.

William the Conqueror, as is commonly reported, was met in his way through this county, immediately after the battle of Hastings, by the Kentish men at Swanscombe, headed by Archbishop Stigand, and Egelsine abbot of St. Augustine's, each man bearing in his hand a bough, the whole multitude appearing as a moving forest, when, throwing down their boughs at the sound of the trumpet, they appeared in arms prepared for battle. This rather alarmed the duke, but his surprise ceased when he found they were the people of Kent, who, as he was informed by the archbishop and abbot, were come to assure him of the submission of the county, and demand the confirmation of their ancient laws and privileges. The duke received them very graciously, and not as willingly as wisely granted their request.

This tale is repeated by William Thorne, monk of St. Augustine's, Canterbury, from a MS. history of that abbey, drawn up by Thomas Sprot, and other chroniclers, who in all probability invented the story to magnify the valor of the archbishop and abbot. All our writers, except Mr. Lambarde, who seems unwilling to relinquish the tradition, have looked upon this story as a mere fiction. Mr. Somner, in particular, calls it a *commentitious fable*, and states that it is only mentioned by Sprot, who lived in the reign of Edward I., and those who wrote after his copy; as, previous to his time, and during an interim of more than 200 years, from the Conquest to the period when he wrote, no published story, chronicle, or record of any kind, Kentish or other, is found to warrant the relation; and yet a matter so remarkable was not likely to have escaped the pens

of all our historians prior to Sprot, especially those about the time of the Conquest. Among the latter, the silence of Ingulphus appears the more strange, he being so particular in recording the Conqueror's oppugners, and their proceedings. These reasons, with others, he offers to the literary and judicious only, for the story being so universally believed by the people, he dares not enter into a dispute, despairing of being able to shake their belief, although he might adduce the most convincing arguments in support of his opinion.

In the reign of William the Conqueror, Swanscombe was part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, and on his disgrace this manor passed to the family of Montchensie.

William, son of William de Montchensie, died owner of this manor in the 6th of King John; he however lived but a short time, as Warine de Montchensie, (probably his uncle,) for a fine of 2000 marks, had possession granted of his whole inheritance. He died under Henry III., leaving William his son and heir, and a daughter Joan, who married William de Valence, the king's half brother.

William de Montchensie, two years after, as heir to his father, possessed all his lands in Kent, and other counties, not long after which he took part with the discontented barons, and in the 48th of Henry III. was one of the chief commanders on their part at the battle of Lewes, where the king was made prisoner; and the following year, when they summoned a parliament in the king's name, he was one of the chief barons who sat in the assembly. After being taken at Kenilworth, at the surprise made by the forces under Prince Edward, a little before the battle of Evesham, his lands, and among them this manor, were seized, and given to William de Valence, before mentioned. However, he soon after had such favor shown him, for his sister's sake, that William Valence freely restored them, after which, in the 6th of Edward I., he obtained a full pardon, and had other favors conferred upon him. In the 17th year of that reign, however, marching with the earl of Cornwall, (then governor of the realm in the absence of the king,) into Wales, against Rees ap Griffith, occupying the castle of Drooselan, and endeavouring to demolish it by undermining the fortress, he was, with many others, overwhelmed in the fall, leaving one sole daughter and heir Dionisia. Notwithstanding this, the

ensuing year, William de Valence, and Joan his wife, asserted their claims in Parliament to the inheritance of her father's lands, pretending that Dionisia was a bastard; but, after much litigation, it was proved that William de Montchensie had acknowledged her while living, as his lawful daughter, publicly; and the bishop of Worcester, in whose diocese she was born, gave sentence accordingly, when she was proclaimed legitimate. She was shortly after married to Hugh de Vere, third son of Robert earl of Oxford, who, in the 25th of the same reign, had possession granted of the lands of her inheritance. In the 1st of Edward II. he was summoned to the king's coronation, as was Dionisia his wife, by whom he had no issue, and on her death, in the 7th of that reign, it was found that she died possessed of the manor of Swanscombe, which she held *in capite* by homage and service; and that Adomar de Valence, son of Joan and William before mentioned, was her next heir, who afterwards succeeded to the earldom of Pembroke. Adomar de Valence, on the death of his two brothers without issue, became earl of Pembroke, but, in the 17th of that reign, attending the queen into France, was murdered, in revenge, it was said, for the death of the earl of Lancaster, being one of those who had pronounced sentence against him at Pontefract, two years before. He left no issue, though twice married, upon which, John, son of John Hastings, by the earl's sister, and John, son of John Comyn, by Joan, the other sister, were found to be his coheirs.

John de Hastings, the son, died without issue, leaving Joan, wife of David de Strabolgie, earl of Athol, and Elizabeth Comyn, her sister, his cousins and next heirs. Elizabeth Comyn being also one of the cousins and heirs of Aymer de Valence, earl of Pembroke, on the partition of his estates, had for her share, among others, the manors of Swanscombe and Milton, in this county; but, being seized on by Hugh le Despencer, earl of Winchester, Hugh, his son, and others at Kennington, in Surrey, she was kept prisoner more than a year, during which time they compelled her, through fear of being put to death, to pass away many manors and lands of her inheritance, among which the manor of Swanscombe seems to have been one, as the king, in his 18th year, confirmed it to Hugh le Despencer, earl of Winchester, and his son Hugh, in fee. The

former, in the 19th year of that reign, on the arrival of the queen at Bristol, with a powerful force from abroad, was brought before the prince, and though at that time ninety years of age, received sentence of death, and was executed accordingly, on which Hugh Despencer, the youngest, fled, but being taken prisoner, was brought in the most ignominious manner to Hereford, where he was condemned to a cruel and shameful death, in the 20th of Edward II. The manor of Swanscombe was then escheated to the crown, where it remained till the 1st of Edward III., who granted this estate to Edmund Woodstock, earl of Kent. He married Margaret, widow of John Comyn, and in the 3d of Edward III. had possession granted of her dowry. Being accused of treason, he was arrested at Winchester in the 4th year of that reign, on which he pleaded for mercy, but, through the malice of Queen Isabel, was adjudged to suffer death for high treason, in plotting the delivery of the late king, which sentence was executed upon him. He died possessed of this manor, with the church belonging thereto, among others in this county, holding it, as appears by the inquisition taken after his death, in fee tail of the king *in capite*. After the death of the earl, this manor seems to have reverted to its right owner, in the person of Elizabeth, sister and heir of John Comyn, of Badenagh, cousin and heir of Aymer earl of Pembroke, then married to Richard Talbot, who paid aid for this manor as half a knight's fee in the 20th year of that reign. He was a man of great valour, and died in the 30th of the same monarch, possessed of this manor, held *in capite*. It appears that he held this estate only for life, for on his death it went to the possession of Roger lord Mortimer, who owned it at his death, which happened in France under Edward III.

From him it descended to his great grandson, Edmund Mortimer, on whose death without issue, in the 3d of Henry VI., Richard duke of York, son of Anne his sister, was found to be his next heir.

Being, both on his father and mother's side, descended from King Edward III., he aspired to the crown, but in the 37th of Henry VI. the army which his friends had raised for that purpose, having, upon the king's proclamation of pardon, deserted him, he fled to Ireland, when that monarch causing a Parliament to

meet at Coventry, the duke, his son Edmund earl of March, and all their adherents, were attainted, upon which this manor became forfeited to the crown, and was immediately granted to Sir Thomas Browne, of Beechworth castle, in Surrey, treasurer of the king's household, who had a grant of a fair to be held at this place annually. However, it appears that the turn of fortune again placed it in the possession of the duke of York, who died possessed of it in the 3d of Edward IV. After which, Cecile his widow, duchess of York, the king's mother, continued in possession of the estate to the time of her death, in the 10th of Henry VII., when it reverted to the crown, where it continued till Henry VIII. settled it on Jane Seymour, his queen, on whose death it again went to the king, where it remained till Elizabeth, in her 2d year, granted it in fee, with the site of the cherry garden, and the ferry at Greenhithe, to Anthony Weldon, esq., who had had a lease of it from Henry VIII. and Edward VI., for a term of years, to hold of her *in capite*, by knight's service. He was descended from Bertram de Weltdone, who was of the retinue of Walter, earl of Northumberland, and bishop of Durham, at the time of the Conquest. His descendant, Robert, had by Elizabeth his wife, four sons, Christopher, who succeeded his father at Weltdon, and was ancestor of the branch of this family which settled there; Edward, the second son, whose descendants settled in Kent, and bore for their arms, *Argent, a cinque-foil pierced, gules, on a chief of the second, a demi lion rampant of the field;* Thomas Weltdon, the third son, who was cofferer to Edward VI.; and William, the fourth son, whose descendants settled at Thornby, in Northamptonshire. Edward, the second son, was servant to Henry VII., and master of the household to Henry VIII. He was of Swanscombe, and left by his wife Anthony Weltdon, to whom Elizabeth, in her 2d year, granted this manor of Swanscombe in fee. He died in the 16th year of that reign, when Ralph his eldest son, had possession granted of this manor, holding it *in capite*, by knight's service. He died in 1609, leaving four sons, Anthony, Henry, Levin, and Ralph, and several daughters.

Anthony Weldon, esq., the eldest son, succeeded his father in this manor, and was afterwards knighted. He left several sons, of whom Ralph the eldest, on the death of his father, in-

herited this manor and the castle. By a descendant, in 1731, they were conveyed by sale to Thomas Blechynden, esq., from whose heirs they passed to Samuel Child, esq. of Osterly park, who, dying, left two sons, the eldest of whom succeeded his father, but dying in 1763 without issue, this manor devolved to his brother and heir at law, Robert Child, esq., late of Osterly park. He died in 1782, when his widow carried her interest in marriage, in 1791, to Francis lord Ducie, and died in 1793, after which they became vested in the trustees of the will of her first husband.

The Manor of Combes, called likewise *Alkerdyn*, in the reign of Edward III. was in the possession of Sir Richard Talbot, who, in the 20th year of that reign, paid aid for it as the tenth part of a knight's fee.

This place afterwards gave name to a family which possessed it for many generations, and was thence named At-Cumbe and Combe. One of that line, John de Combe, held it as the fifth part of a knight's fee of the earl of March, lord of the manor of Swanscombe. From this family it went, in the reign of Edward IV., to one Swan, of Hook house, in Southfleet, whose descendant, Mr. Thomas Swan, died possessed of it in the 3d of Elizabeth, when his son and heir, William, sold it to a Lovelace. He, not long after, passed it away to Mr. Carter, who alienated it to one Hardres, when, after passing through many names, and particularly those of Sir Francis Head and Lord Teynham, it devolved in 1794 to the possession of David Powell, esq., merchant of London.

Ingress, which we have slightly mentioned, was once accounted a manor, and formerly belonged to the priory of Dartford. It was in the possession of that priory at the suppression under Henry VIII., by which means this estate, among others of its possessions, passed to the crown, at which time Robert Meriel, of Swanscombe, husbandman, had a lease from the prioress and convent at the yearly rent of £10, of their farm called Ingress, which lease Martin Meriel, his son, afterwards had renewed from Edward VI., in his 5th year.

The fee of this estate remained in the crown, till Elizabeth, in her 5th year, granted it to Edward Darbyshire, and John Bere, from whom it passed by sale and otherwise, through a variety of names, till, in 1737, it was alienated to the earl of

Hyndford, who, in 1748, sold it, with the grounds, to William viscount Duncannon, afterwards earl of Besborough. He greatly improved this seat and grounds, which he rendered extremely beautiful, and resided here with his lady (Carolina, eldest daughter of William duke of Devonshire,) and family, till her death, which happened in 1760; but, losing also several of his children here, he became so disgusted with the place, that he sold it to John Calcraft, esq., who purchased estates at different times that lay contiguous to Ingress, into which he extended those plantations and gardens commenced by Lord Besborough; and, had he lived, Ingress would most probably have been one of the greatest ornaments of this county. He died in 1772, M.P. for Rochester, and devised these estates to his eldest son, John Calcraft, esq., who sold it in 1788 to John Disney Roebuck, esq., who resided here, and died possessed of it in 1796, at which time his son Henry took possession of the same.

SWANSCOMBE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The church is dedicated to St. Peter, having a spire steeple at the west end. In this structure, among other monuments are the following. In the aisle several gravestones, with memorials for the families of the Tuckey's, the Acarte's, the Wallis's, and other inhabitants of this parish. A monument for Mr. John Sloman, and a memorial for the wife of Anthony Weldon, esq. On the south side is a mural monument, with the figure of a woman, finely executed, commemorative of dame Eleanor Weldon, wife of Sir Anthony, and on the south side of the rails is a mural monument, with the figure of a man kneeling at a desk, for Anthony Weldon. In the south *chancel* a memento for Eleanor, relict of William Say, esq., and another for Elizabeth, relict of William Hart, esq., with their arms empaling those of Weldon, and a tomb for Thomas Blechingdon. At the upper end of the south side is a stately monument of alabaster, supporting the figures of a knight in armour, and his lady resting on pillows; at his feet appears his son cumbent, and at hers, a daughter; and in front, under two tablets, three sons and five daughters kneeling, in the costume of that age. Betweent hem is a desk, with a book laying open, this monument being for Sir Ralph Weldon, erected by his wife, the lady Elizabeth. In the upper

window of the south chancel are these ancient arms, in coloured glass, *first quarterly first and fourth, argent, a chevron between three rooks proper; second and third, per pale indented, quarterly and azure, a lion rampant, or, empaling chequy, or and azure, a fess gules.* This church, in former times, was much frequented by companies of pilgrims, who resorted hither for St. Hilderfirth's help, who, from his portrait, which was in the upper window of the south side, appears to have been a bishop, to whom such as were distracted came to be cured of their insanity.

From the very earliest records this church was esteemed an appendage to the manor of Swanscombe, although, in the reign of Henry III., there arose a dispute between the prior and convent of St. Mary's, in Southwark, and Warine de Montchensie, concerning the advowson and right of presentation; but the prior and convent allowed it to Warine de Montchensie, who secured to the prior and his successors the annual sum of five marks sterling, to be paid by the rector.

In the 15th of Edward I., the rectory of Swanscombe was valued at thirty marks.

By virtue of the *commission of inquiry* in the value of church livings, in 1650, it was returned that Swanscombe was a parsonage, with a house, and about twenty acres of glebe land, the whole worth £120 per annum; Master Betts then enjoying the same, who had the advowson. About that period there was a suit between the lord of the manor and the rector of the parish, relating to tithes, which was determined, in the Exchequer, in favor of the latter, of which there is a curious memorandum inserted in the register. It was valued in the king's books at £25 13 4, the annual tenths being £2 11 4.

In 1821 there were 163 dwellings in the parish of Swanscombe; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 456, females 452, making a total of 908 souls.

SOUTHFLEET joins Swanscombe to the southward, called in Domesday *Suthfleta*, to distinguish it from Northfleet, and in the *Textus Roffensis*, *Fletis* and *Fleotis*, which name it acquired from its situation close to the fleet, or arm of the

Thames, which now flows under Northfleet bridge; it formerly mounted as high as this parish, having probably then been navigable. These parishes thence deriving their name, shew this water to have been of some consequence.

The parish is rather unfrequented, and little known, there being no public thoroughfare for carriages; while the gentlemen's seats, of which there are several, have been greatly neglected, and some pulled down, the remainder being inhabited by the occupants of the lands. This district is, however, very picturesque, and the air extremely healthy, the lands being more level and fertile than those of the neighbouring parishes. The village is situated nearly in the middle of the district, in the centre of which is a space called Hook green, on which stands Hook place, now used as a farm-house, the church and free school being on the north-west side, and the parsonage at a small distance southward. The ancient seat of Scadbury stands at a small distance northward, now converted into a farm-house, and, excepting the rector, there is scarcely a gentleman residing in the parish, though the farmers are respectable and opulent. About a mile north-west from the village is the hamlet of Betsham, formerly called Bedesham, through which the road leads from Greensted green to Wingfield bank, where it meets the ancient Watling street, or Roman highway, which having passed through Swanscombe Park wood, runs with the present road along the northern side of this parish, towards Shinglewell, and thence on to Cobham park and Rochester.

On the remains of this road, about half a mile westward of Wingfield bank, adjoining Spring head, on the land now called Barkfield, in this parish, a stone was discovered some years ago, which, when dug up, was judged to be a *Roman milliare*, or *milestone;* it stood nearly upright, the top was about six or seven inches below the surface of the ground, and had been much furrowed by the plough passing over it. It measured two feet and a half in length, two of its sides being sixteen inches wide, and the other two, fourteen. The corners wree chiselled, but its faces were rustic; on one side was a cross or figure of X, deeply cut, undoubtedly intended to shew that it stood that distance from some particular station. Somner and others have placed the station of the Romans, called WAGNIACÆ, at Northfleet, not far distant; but the objection is, that the

valley between Northfleet hill, leading to the bridge and the opposite hill, westward, was at that time a broad fleet of water; the Thames having then flowed up nearly to Southfleet, as it would in the present day were it not impeded by the main road and the bank beside the same. It is, therefore, reasonable to suppose that, to avoid this water, the Romans took their course more to the southward, in the direction of Southfleet, it being there narrower, where they had also the benefit of a fine spring, still known by the name of the Spring head, near which the stone above mentioned was discovered, as well as numerous coins, both silver and copper, which have been turned up by the plough. Dr. Thorpe conjectured that hereabouts was the above-mentioned station; which spot answers to the numerical cross on the milestone, being about ten Italian miles from the Medway at Rochester.

In a place called Sole Field, in this parish, a vessel was discovered, of a spherical form, consisting of strong red pottery, sufficiently capacious to contain twenty gallons; there was also found a stone tomb enclosing two leaden coffins, a sarcophagus with two large glass urns, and two pair of curiously wrought shoes, all included within the walls of a square building, measuring about fifty-eight feet by fifty-five. The length of the tomb was rather more than six-feet; the coffins of a very simple form, each composed of two pieces of lead, bent at the sides and ends, to enclose the bodies; the skeletons were perfect, and, from the smallness of the bones and teeth, conjectured to be those of children of seven or eight years of age. In one of the coffins was a very handsome gold chain, consisting of a number of links, ornamented by angular pieces of bluish green stone, or composition, and in the middle of each alternate link had been a pearl, all nearly decayed. In the same coffin were two curious rings for gold bracelets, with serpents' heads at the junctions, and a smaller ring set with a hyacinth. The sarcophagus was found beneath a pavement of Kentish ragstone, about three feet below the surface of the ground; it was of a square form, four feet one inch in length, and composed of two stones very nicely fitted in a groove; the internal cavity was elliptical, and therein were two glass urns, the largest one foot three inches high. In both were considerable quantities of ashes, but that which contained the lesser

portion was filled with a transparent liquid, which had neither taste or smell. Some of the same species of liquor was in the other urn; the shoes were placed between the urns, and though much decayed, had sufficient remaining to shew the richness of the workmanship, and appeared to have been formed of fine purple-coloured leather, reticulated in the form of hexagons, and each hexagonal division wrought with gold.

THE MANOR OF SOUTHFLEET, with the church, appears to have been given to the church and priory of St. Andrew's, Rochester, by some of the ancient Saxon kings, and their estate much increased, by the gift of one Birtrick, a powerful man, who at that time resided at Meopham, and gave, with the consent of Alfswithe his wife, his land here and in other places to that church and priory. Their whole property, however, situated here, was wrested from them in the troublesome times which followed, and they continued dispossessed of their estate till the time of the Conqueror, when it was again restored to the church of St. Andrew at the famous assembly at Penenden. This appears, by a confirmation of the manor, among others, to the church of Rochester, by Archbishop Boniface, in which it is mentioned as having been the gift of the ancient kings of England, then taken away, and restored, as above mentioned; it continued part of the possessions of the above church at the general survey of Domesday, in the 15th of the Conqueror's reign. At the suppression of the priory of Rochester, this manor passed into the hands of the king, who, two years after, settled it on his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester, where it did not long remain, as that monarch required the same in exchange from them, for other lands, and soon after granted this manor of Southfleet to Sir William Petre, to hold *in capite*, who was a man of eminence in his time, possessing great wisdom and extensive learning. He was first taken notice of by Henry VIII., as a personage fit for his purpose, in managing the dissolution of religious houses, and put into the commission by Thomas Cromwell, visitor general, in order to gather matter sufficient to found their ruin. In that business he behaved so well, that the monarch ever after employed him in state affairs, and made him chief secretary of state, and of his privy council. Sir William knew so well how to accommodate himself to the humor of those fickle times, that he found means to continue in

favor, and in his office of secretary, during the reigns of Edward VI., Queen Mary, and Elizabeth; but during the reign of Mary, he perceived that restoring the Catholic religion would deprive him of those vast grants of abbey lands which he had so industriously acquired, he therefore procured a special dispensation from the pope for retaining them, affirming that he was ready to employ them to spiritual purposes. His only son, John, by his second wife, was, in the 1st of James I., made lord Petre of Writtle, in Essex. Sir William Petre sold this manor, the year in which it was granted to him, to William Gerrard, or Garnet, citizen of London, afterwards knighted, and made lord mayor in 1553. He was son of John Gerrard, of Sittingborne, and bore for his arms, *Argent on a fess, sable, a lion passant of the field.* He died in the 14th of Elizabeth, and was succeeded by his son and heir, William Gerrard, lord mayor in 1611; from whom it descended down to his grandfather, Sir Charles Sedley, bart., who left an only daughter, created by James II., in his 1st year, countess of Dorchester and baroness Darlington, for life. Sir Charles died in 1701, when the title became extinct, and this estate passed by settlement to Sir Charles Sedley, of St. Giles's, who was the following year created a baronet, and resided at Scadbury, now called Scotbury, an ancient seat of the family in this parish; they bore for their arms, quarterly five coats, first, *Sedley, azure a fess wavy argent, between three goats' heads erased of the second;* second, Jenks; third, Grove; fourth, Darell; and fifth, Savile.

The family of Sedley was possessed of Scadbury as far back as 1337, as appeared by a panel of wainscot in the dining room of the mansion, whereon was carved the arms of Sedley, the letters W.S., and the above-mentioned date. John Sedley was of Scadbury in the reign of Henry VII., and died in 1500, leaving two sons, William and Martin Sedley, which latter was of Morley, in Norfolk, and from him descended the Sedley's of that county.

William, the eldest son, was of Scadbury, and left three sons and two daughters; John, the eldest, was also of Scadbury; Robert was the second; and Nicholas the third. John, the eldest son of William, was sheriff in the 8th of Queen Elizabeth; he married Anne, daughter of John Colepeper, esq. of Ayles-

ford, and died in 1581, leaving three sons, of whom, William was of Aylesford, and created a baronet in 1611; John died; and Richard was of Southfleet; by an ordinary of arms belonging to the gentry of this county, under date 1595, the arms of the Sedley's, of Southfleet, were, *Per pale, azure and sable, a fess, chequy, argent, and gules, between three goats' heads erased, argent attired, or;* which we imagine were those of this Richard Sedley, who married the daughter of John Darell, esq. of Calehill. By her he had William Sedley, esq., who died in 1658, leaving by his second wife a son, named Charles, who was knighted in 1688, and died in 1701. His son, Charles, after the death of Sir Charles Sedley, bart. of Aylesford and Southfleet, became possessed both of the manor of Southfleet and the ancient family seat of Scadbury, and was created a baronet, July, 1702. He died 1727, leaving one son, Charles, and a daughter, Elizabeth.

Sir Charles Sedley, bart., the son, married, in 1718, Elizabeth, daughter of William Frith, esq., by whom he became possessed of the estate and seat at Nuthall, in Nottinghamshire, where this family afterwards resided. He died in 1730, leaving Sir Charles Sedley, bart. of Nuthall, his son and heir, who, some years ago, exchanged the manor of Southfleet, Scadbury, and the estates belonging thereto, for other lands, with the Rev. Mr. Sanderson, of Haslemere, in Surrey, whose daughter, Mary Anne, subsequently possessed them.

This manor is bound to contribute to the repairs of the third pier of Rochester bridge.

Pole, or Pool, is a manor, which was anciently estimated at one suling or plough land; it was formerly the inheritance of a family of the name of Berese, one of whom, Richard de Berese, gave the tithes of his lands in Southfleet to the church of Rochester, which were allotted by Bishop Gundulph to the share of the monks of his priory. It afterwards gave name to a family which possessed the estate; and it appears by the book of knight's fees, taken in the reign of Edward I., that Sarah de Pole was owner of it in that reign, holding it in dower, as two parts of a knight's fee, of the bishop of Rochester. In the reign of Edward III., this manor was part of the possessions of Sir John, son of Henry de Cobham, of Cobham, the eldest branch of that noble family, which, in the 17th year of

that reign, obtained a charter for *free warren* within the lordship of Pole. Sir John de Cobham died very old in the 9th of Henry IV., possessed of this manor, leaving Joan, his granddaughter, next heir, who was then wife of Sir Nicholas Hawberk. She afterwards married Sir John Oldcastle, who, on that account, assumed the title of Cobham, and died possessed of this manor in the 5th of Henry VI. She is said to have had five husbands, one of whom, John Harpden, died possessed of Pole, in her right, the 12th of Henry VI.; she had issue only by her second husband, Sir Reginald Braybrooke, one sole daughter and heir, Joan, who married Sir Thomas Brooke, of Somersetshire, and he became lord Cobham in her right. He had by her a numerous offspring, and died under Henry VI., possessed of this manor, which descended from him to his great grandson, Sir Thomas Brooke, lord Cobham, who gave it in marriage with his third daughter, Elizabeth, to Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Allington castle. He, in the 32d of Henry VIII., exchanged it, with other lands in Southfleet, with the king, for the monastery of Boxley; after which it remained in the crown till Queen Mary, in her 2d year, granted it to the widow of Sir Thomas Wyatt, who had been executed for treason. Their son, George, was of Boxley abbey, and on his death, in 1624, this manor descended to his eldest son, Sir Francis Wyatt, of Boxley abbey, who died in 1644, leaving Henry his successor in this manor; and Edwin, sergeant at law; as well as a daughter, married to Thomas Bosvill, esq. of Little Mote, in Eynsford.

Henry Wyatt, the eldest son, was of Boxley abbey, and possessed Pole manor; he left by Jane, his wife, an only daughter, Frances, who married Sir Thomas Selyard, bart., who in her right took possession of the estate; but her father's brother, Mr. Serjeant Wyatt, above mentioned, claimed and afterwards recovered this manor.

Sir Thomas Selyard died possessed of the farm, after which Lady Selyard, his widow, passed it away by sale to one Fisher, by a female heir of which name it became the property of Mr. John Colyer.

The manor, with the other moiety of the farm and demesne lands, possessed by Mr. Serjeant Wyatt, after his death, continued some years in that line, till, on the death of the last of

that name, it became vested in Robert Marsham, lord Romney, great grandson of Elizabeth, sister of Mr. Serjeant Wyatt, who married Thomas Bosvill, esq.; and his son, the Right Hon. Charles lord Romney, afterwards possessed the manor of Pole.

HOOK PLACE is a seat in Southfleet, for some centuries the seat of a family named Swan, which, as early as the reign of Richard II., wrote themselves *gentlemen*, as appears by their own deeds. Sir William Swan possessed it in the reign of James I., and died in 1612; his grandson, Sir William Swan, was also of Hook place, and created a baronet in 1666. He left Sir William Swan, bart., who conveyed the estate and seat to the Harrington's; Aaron Harrington, esq. died possessed of it in 1739, and Sarah, his sister, married to Mr. Samuel Russel, by whom he had a daughter, under the will of her uncle Harrington, carried it in marriage to Joseph Brooke, esq., then recorder of Rochester, who by will, after the decease of his wife, devised it to the Rev. John Kenward Shaw, of Town Malling, who took the name of Brooke.

This parish is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, is spacious, consisting of three aisles and a chancel, and contains some curious brass plates, monuments, and remains of fine painted glass, particularly in the large east window. In the chancel is an ancient tomb, or stone coffin, with a cross thereon, and at the sides six ancient stalls, for the use of the monks of Rochester; the whole chancel having been repaired and beautified, in 1768, by the then rector. In a chapel or chantry that adjoins the church, on the south side, is an ornamental tomb, for John Sedley, and Elizabeth his wife. In the chancel wall appears a curious triple stone seat, under pointed arches; and, at a little distance, a piscina. The font is curious, being octagonal, ornamented with carved work in each compartment; and the tower rises at the west end, containing a good peal of bells.

Among other monuments and inscriptions in this chancel are the following: in the chancel a gravestone, with the figures of a man and woman, inscription for John Urban, and Joan his wife, and another for John Tubney, rector. On an altar monument, east of the former, are the figures of a man and woman, and also their three sons, and four daughters, for John Sedley,

auditor of the Exchequer, and Elizabeth his wife; on the same monument is a brass plate, bearing an inscription for John Sedley, esq. of Southfleet, and Anne his wife, daughter of John Colepeper, esq. of Aylesford, obiit 1581. In the north aisle, a memorial for Hester lady Swan, and Sir William her son, also a memorial for Cecilie lady Peyton; and on a brass plate fixed to the wall of the belfry, an inscription showing that Master John Swan, William Swan, and Richard Swan, his brothers, with Thomas and William Swan, his grandchildren, gave the largest bell to this structure.

In the 15th of Edward I. the church was valued at thirty marks, and it was returned by the *commission of inquiry* in the value of livings in 1650, issuing out of Chancery, that Southfleet was a parsonage, having a house, and five acres of land, worth £160 per annum.

The parsonage house is one of the most ancient edifices of the kind in the diocese. It is built of stone, the windows large, with pointed arches, having stone munnions, resembling those of a church. The porch is built with a strong arch, the whole having presented a most venerable and ecclesiastical appearance, till the front was plastered over and whitewashed, and the Gothic windows altered and sashed, which entirely destroyed all its ancient beauty. Some of the windows on the south side still retain their original form.

This living was valued in the king's books at £31 15 0, the yearly tenths being £3 3 6.

Henry Stace, in 1442, gave a tenement and four acres of land to the churchwardens, for the use of this church for ever.

In 1821 there were 125 dwellings in the parish of Southfleet; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow:, males 305, females 272, making a total of 577 souls.

The next parish southward is LONGFIELD, called in old writings, *Langefeld*, and in Domesday *Langafel*.

LONGFIELD is a small parish, long and narrow; it contains no coppice wood, excepting shaves round the fields; the land is very poor and hilly, the surface chiefly chalk, and much covered with flint stones. It is an obscure place, the road from

Greenstreet green to Trosley hill passing through it, along the valley. At the west end, close to the road, is the church, and above, the court lodge. At the east end is Longfield green, and a few houses, with some others straggling, which compose the whole of this parish.

There was formerly an ancient building, called Longfield house, properly the residence of the Burrow family, as early as the reign of Elizabeth, but it has been long taken down.

This place was given while Elfstane was bishop of Rochester, who came to that see in 945, by Alfswithe, wife of Birtrick, of Meopham, to the priory of Rochester, as two plough lands; and, being wrested from that church during the Danish wars, was recovered at the assembly held at Penenden in 1076, and restored by Lanfranc, archbishop of Canterbury, to Gundulph, bishop of Rochester.

The court lodge stands almost adjoining the churchyard. It is a strong ancient building, with arched doors and windows of hewn stone, and was probably once made use of by the archdeacon as a house of retirement.

LONGFIELD is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The church, a small mean building, is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, and consists of one aisle and a chancel, having a low pointed steeple at the west end, which contains one bell. Among other monuments and inscriptions, are several memorials for the families of the Burrow's, of Hartley, and adjoining the south wall of the church, on the outside, is an altar tomb, enclosed by wooden rails, for Archdeacon Plume, who died in 1704, aged seventy-four. This church is of the ancient patronage of the bishop of Rochester, and a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly value of £30, the annual tenths being 11s. 9d.

By virtue of the *commission of inquiry* it was returned that Longfield was a parsonage, having neither house or barn, that it had six acres of glebe land, and was worth £30 per annum.

In 1821 there were fourteen dwellings in the parish of Longfield; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 68, females 45, making a total of 113 souls.

Southward from LONGFIELD lies FAWKHAM, otherwise called *Fakeham*, written in Domesday *Fachesham*, in the *Textus Roffensis, Falcheham* and *Falkenham*, and in the will of Bertrick, *Fealcanham*.

This parish is a lonely unfrequented spot, containing about 1000 acres of land, of which about 250 are wood, without having any high road through it. It lies on elevated ground, among the hills; the soil is chalky, abounding in flints, and, though poor and barren, is in some measure recompensed by being extremely healthy. There are two hamlets, called Fawkham green, and Fawkham street. The church stands near the northern boundary, and the seat called Pennis is situated in the middle of the parish, adjoining a large wood, which extends quite across the district.

FAWKHAM was part of the possessions of Birtrick, of Meopham, who by his last testament bequeathed this manor to Byrware, for his life, and then to St. Andrew's church in Rochester, for the soul of Elfric and his ancestors.

This place had been wrested from the church of Rochester during the Danish wars, and again restored by Archbishop Lanfranc, who acquired it at the assembly held at Penenden heath.

This place was, soon after the reign of the Conqueror, in the possession of a family which thence took its name, and held it by knight's service of the bishop of Rochester.

Robert de Falkeham held it in the reign of Henry I., as appears by the Red book in the Exchequer. Walleran de Faukham possessed it in the reign of Henry II., and bore for his arms, *Argent, a fess gules in chief, two torteaux*, as they remained in the window of the church. Soon after, this estate seems to have been separated into two parts; one held by Rose de Faukeham, of the bishop of Rochester, styled the manor of *Old Faukeham*, otherwise *Ash Faukeham*; and the other by the bishop, of one William le Clerk, called *New Fawkeham*.

In the 8th of Edward III., Nicholas Malmains held the former, and Gilbert de Kirkby the latter.

In the 20th year of that reign, Otho de Grandison, who had married Beatrix, daughter and coheir of Nicholas Malmains, and the above-mentioned Gilbert de Kirkby, paid aid for the manor of Old Fawkeham, with New Fawkeham, as one knight's

fee and a half, which they held of the bishop of Rochester. Sir Otho de Grandison died possessed of the manor of Fawkeham, or Old Fawkeham, in the 33d of Edward III., leaving Sir Thomas Grandison his son and heir, who, during his fealty, had possession granted of the lands of his father. He died without issue, possessed of this manor, in the 50th of the above reign, and in the 22d of Richard II. this manor had become the inheritance of Philippa, granddaughter and heir of Sir Guy Bryan, and widow of John Devereux, who that year married Sir Henry le Scrope, of Masham. She died in the 8th of Henry IV. possessed of this manor, leaving Elizabeth, wife of Robert Lovel, her sister and next heir.

Robert Poynings, younger son of Robert lord Poynings, afterwards possessed it by a grant from the crown, and died owner of the manor in the 9th of Edward IV., leaving a son and heir Edward, who was a famous soldier in his time; and, having been extremely faithful to Henry earl of Richmond, in his distresses, was, after his attaining the crown, chosen one of the privy council, made governor of Dover castle, knight of the Garter, and lord warden of the Cinque Ports. He died in the 14th of Henry VIII., leaving no legitimate issue, on which his estates escheated to the crown, when this of Fawkeham was the next year granted to James Dyggis, esq., who that year settled it on his son, John Dyggis, and Mildred his wife, daughter of Sir John Scot, in tail male.

From the latter name it passed by sale to Thomas Barham, of Barham court, in Teston, whose sole daughter and heir Anne, in the reign of Elizabeth, carried it in marriage to Sir Oliver Boteler, of Sharnbrooke, in Bedfordshire, who removed thence to his father's seat at Teston, above mentioned. His descendant, Sir Philip Boteler, bart., died without issue in 1772, possessed of this manor, and by will devised one moiety of his estates to Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Chart Sutton, and the other to Viscountess Folkestone, and William Bouverie, earl of Radnor; when, on their partition of these estates, the manor of Fawkeham fell to the share of the Lady viscountess Folkestone, who died in 1782, on which it passed to her son, the Hon. Philip Bouverie, who afterwards took the name of Pusey.

The foundations of the ancient mansion are yet visible, occupying great part of the garden of a public-house, for the repairs

of which they have been from time to time pulled down, and what still remains of the building appears to have been the walls of the chapel.

The *other part* of this manor, or NEW FAWKEHAM, was, after the extinction of the family of Kirkby, part of the possessions of that of Rokesle, and afterwards of that of the Percy's, earls of Northumberland, of whom Henry Algernon, fifth earl, was owner of the same in the 17th of Henry VIII., and died the following year. Henry, the eldest, succeeded him in titles, and in the 19th of that reign had possession granted of all the lands which descended to him as heir. In the 27th of that reign an Act passed for assuming to the king and his heirs, all the lands and possessions of this earl in default of heirs of his body, and the earl by that deed, the next year, granted to the king all his manors, lands, and castles.

This manor afterwards went into the possession of one White, whose heirs sold it in the reign of Elizabeth to Thomas Walter, gent., when he rebuilt the mansion called Pennis, and there resided. He left several children, of whom John Walter, the eldest, possessed this estate, who died in 1625, and by will bequeathed some charitable legacies to the poor of this parish, as well as Ash and Hartley, wherein his lands lay. He bore for his arms, *Azure, a fess dancette, or, between three crowns embattled of the second.* His heirs sold this estate to John Gifford, esq., who resided at Pennis, and on whose death, in 1704, it went to his son, Thomas Gifford, esq. He left three daughters and coheirs, who possessed this estate in undivided thirds till 1718, when they agreed to make a partition of their inheritance; on which division this estate, with Pennis, and the lands belonging thereto, were allotted to John Selby, in right of Mary his wife, one of the daughters and coheirs. He left two sons, William, who succeeded him at Ightham, and John, to whom he devised Pennis, with the estate at Fawkeham, after the death of Mary his wife; she survived him some time, and on her decease left the possession of the property to her son John Selby, who resided here, and conveyed it to his brother William before mentioned, on whose death, in 1773, it went to his only son and heir, William Selby, esq. of Pennis. He died possessed of it in 1777, leaving an only daughter and heir, Elizabeth Borough Selby, and his widow surviving; the

former died under age in 1781, and the latter in 1788, on which this, with the other estates, descended to John Browne, esq., who afterwards took the name of Selby, and resided at the Moat in Ightham.

FAWKEHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a small building, containing one aisle and a chancel, with a low pointed steeple, and appears to be of great antiquity. Over the west door is a curious painted window, ornamented by a rich bordering, within a compartment of which is the figure of William de Fawkeham, lord of this parish, and donor of the window, habited as a pilgrim, holding in his right hand a Bible, while under appears his wife kneeling, her hands joined in prayer, the lower part of which figure is lost, but, to supply the defect, two shields have been placed, bearing the arms of Grandison, *Or, a cross gules, charged with five cotizes of the first, between four trefoils, slipt, issuing from as many turfs proper;* this coat having adorned a window on the north side of the body, but through the ignorance of the glazier is here inserted sidewise. In the centre compartment are the arms of Fawkeham, *Argent, a fess gules in chief, three roundels of the second,* which arms are likewise in the north window, but the colours faded; the other figures in this window are those of the Virgin and Jesus, the background and other parts being richly ornamented. In the body of the church, in a window on the south side, is this shield, *Azure, six stars of six points,* and, in the east window, the arms of England.

There are some monuments and inscriptions for the families of the Sendder's, the Walter's, the Michell's, and the Ward's, of Hythe, as well as for that of Turney.

In the 15th of Edward I. this church was valued at five marks.

In 1821, there were thirty-one dwellings in the parish of Fawkeham; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 93, females 75, making a total of 168 souls.

HARTLEY is the next adjoining parish, called in Domesday, *Erclei*, and in the *Textus Roffensis, Herdei.*

This parish, but little known or frequented, contains about 1200 acres, part of which is a large wood, called Hartley wood, containing 150 acres. At the northern boundary the soil is chalky, light, and much covered with flints. The church stands on the hill, round which there is no village, though here and at Hartley green, about a quarter of a mile northward, there are several houses. The western part of this parish lies in the valley called Hartley bottom, along which the road leads to Wrotham and Trosley.

This place, at the survey of Domesday, was part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, and so entered in that record. On his disgrace, the manor became forfeited to the crown, and was part of the possessions of the noble family of Montchensie, one of whom, Warine de Montchensie, owned it in the reign of King John. In the 37th of Henry III. he obtained a charter of *free warren* for this manor, and died the year following, leaving a son William, and a daughter Joan, married to William de Valence, the king's half brother. William de Montchensie had possession granted of his father's lands, but, joining with the rebellious barons, was taken prisoner, and afterwards, being pardoned, killed at the siege of Drosselan castle, in Wales. Having one daughter, she had possession granted of this manor, and upon her death it descended to Adomar de Valence, earl of Pembroke, son of Joan and William de Valence before mentioned.

Aymer earl of Pembroke was greatly favored and employed both by Kings Edward I. and II., but, in the 17th year of the reign of the latter, he was murdered, as previously observed. John, son of John de Hastings, by Isabel his wife, the earl's sister, and John, son of John Comyns, of Badenagh, by Joan, his other sister, were found to be his coheirs, but Mary de St. Paul, his widow, surviving, had the ensuing year for her dowry an assignment of this manor, among others. She died possessed of it in the 51st of Edward III., upon which it passed to John de Hastings, before mentioned, next of kin to Aymer de Valence, earl of Pembroke.

John de Hastings was then an infant, and at the coronation of Richard II., being then about five years old, claimed the privilege of carrying the great golden spurs, and showing sufficient evidence of his right, it was granted to him and a deputy,

appointed for that purpose. He was afterwards killed at a tournament, and upon his death, without issue, Reginald lord Grey, of Ruthyn, was found to be his heir.

Philippa countess of Pembroke, survived her husband, and marrying Richard Fitzalan, earl of Arundel, had this manor in dowry with her.

The earl was fined, for this marriage, 400 marks; soon after which, in consequence of the dangerous tendency of the times, and the implacable hatred of the king against him, retired into the country, having obtained a special dispensation from attending Parliament, or any other public employment. Notwithstanding this, the monarch, entertaining fears respecting him, soon afterwards got him into his power by fair means, and then sent him prisoner to London, when being soon after brought to trial, although he pleaded the king's promise and charter of pardon, he received sentence to be drawn, hanged, and quartered, which was commuted to the losing his head, the king himself being a spectator of the execution. After his death, his widow, Philippa, still kept possession of this manor, till her death, in the reign of Henry IV., she then bearing the title of countess of Pembroke.

Reginald lord Grey, of Ruthyn, became entitled to this manor, as next of kin to Aymer earl of Pembroke, and at the coronation of Henry IV. carried the golden spurs. Great dissentions arising between Reginald and Owen Glendower, they had recourse to arms, and the former being taken prisoner,, was obliged to raise 10,000 marks for his ransom, to procure which this manor of Hertelegh was sold among others to John Urban, of Southfleet. He died possessed of it in the 8th of Henry V., as did also his son John in the 4th of Henry VI., on which it passed to his sister Emma Penhale, who died the next year, and left it to her son, who held it in the 2d of Edward IV., as appears by the book of Dower, in the Exchequer.

In the 13th of Henry VII., William Cressel, esq. died possessed of the manor of Hartley, which he held of the king *in capite;* and his son, Richard Cressel, in the next reign, sold it to one Draper, who passed it to a Ballard; when the latter conveyed it to William Sedley, esq. of Southfleet, at the latter end of the reign of Edward VI. In his descendants it continued in the same line as the manor of Southfleet, down to

Sir Charles Sedley, bart. of Nuthall, in Nottinghamshire; who, in 1770, sold it to William Glanvill Evelyn, esq. of St. Clere's, in Ightham.

HARTLEY is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The church, dedicated to All Saints, is a small building, consisting of one aisle and a chancel, having a pointed steeple at the west end. Among other inscriptions in this edifice, are mementoes for James Burrow, gent. of Kingsdown, and John Cox, gent. of Stansted, obiit 1729; and above, these arms, *Azure, three fleurs de lis, ermine empaling sable, a chevron argent between three attires of a stag, fixed to the scalp of the second.*

In the 15th of Edward I., this church was valued at twelve marks; and by virtue of the *commission of inquiry*, in 1650, it was returned, that Hartley was a parsonage, with a house, and eight acres of glebe land, the whole worth £60 per annum. It was valued in the king's books at £7, the yearly tenths being 14s.; and subsequently estimated at about 200 guineas per annum.

In 1821 there were thirty-one dwellings in the parish of Hartley; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 87, females 74, making a total of 161 souls.

RIDLEY lies the next parish southward from Hartley, written in ancient records *Redlegh*, and in Domesday *Redlege*.

This parish is situated upon the chalk hills, the soil being much the same as that of Hartley; there is no village, and the church stands in the southern part, having the court lodge and parsonage adjoining. It contains about 800 acres, of which nearly 100 are wood; the high road from Longfield, through Hartley bottom, to Berry's Maple, Wrotham, and Trosley, running along the valley, at the western boundary of the parish, which is otherwise but little known or frequented.

This place, at the survey of Domesday, was in the possession of the bishop of Bayeux, and, under King John, had passed to Roger de Leyborne, who made a grant of this manor to Bartholomew de Watton, to hold of his manor of Leyborne. On what terms this grant was concluded, does not appear; however,

William de Leyborne, son of Roger, had subsequently a claim over it, as, on the death of his father, he founded a chantry in the church of Leyborne, and endowed it, among other rents, with five marks, to be paid yearly, out of this manor, by the hands of Bartholomew de Watton, for the support of one chaplain, in perpetual alms, for ever. After the name of of Watton became extinct, it passed to that of Waley; Augustine Waley being descended from Henry Wallis, or De Galcis, a merchant of London, several times lord mayor in the reign of Edward IV., who bore for his arms, *Five bars, and over them a bend.*

He paid aid for it, in the 20th of Edward III., as one knight's fee, late Bartholomew de Watton's; and obtained a charter of *free warren* for his manor of Ridley, in the 22d of that reign: he died possessed of the estate, then holding it *in capite*, and by suit to the king's hundred of Axstane.

In the reign of Richard II., it was in the possession of Sir William Rikhill, justice of the King's Bench, who died in the reign of Henry IV., and devised this manor to his eldest son, William, who, about the 16th of Henry VI., conveyed it by deed to Thomas Engham, esq. of Engham, in Woodchurch. He again, in the 19th year of the same reign, passed it by fine to Robert Savory; from which name it was sold, not many years after, to a Fitz; one of whom, Walter Fitz, died possessed of this manor in the 21st of King Henry VII., holding it of the abbey of Tower hill, London. He left his son and heir, John Fitz, a minor, the wardship of whom was granted by the abbot and convent, under Henry VIII., to Piers Bevil, and he conveyed this manor, in the 27th of Henry VIII., to William Sedley, esq. of Southfleet; in whose descendants it continued in the same line as Southfleet, to Sir Charles Sedley, bart. of Nuthall, in Nottinghamshire. The latter, about the year 1770, sold it to William Glanvill Evelyn, esq.; and he passed it to Multon Lambard, esq. of Sevenoak. A court-leet and court-baron is held for this manor.

Ridley is within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester; the church, southward of the parish, is dedicated to St. Peter, being small, with one aisle and a chancel, much overgrown with ivy, having neither tower or steeple. Before the altar is a tomb for John Lambe,

obiit 1740; and above, a chevron between three holy lambs, with staves and banners.

The patronage of this church and manor belonged to Roger de Leyborne, whose descendant, Thomas, left a daughter, Juliana, heir to her grandfather William, who possessed this advowson. She having no issue by either of her husbands, under Edward III. the property was escheated to the crown. It so remained till the 50th year of that prince, who then granted the advowson of the church, &c. to the abbey of St. Mary Grace, Tower Hill, founded by him. He soon after devised it to Sir Simon de Burley for a term, but, being forfeited on his attainder, Richard II. granted it to that monastery in pure and perpetual alms.

The advowson of Ridley church continued with the abbey till the Dissolution, when it was granted by Henry VIII. to the see of Canterbury, where it continued a short time, being regranted to the king, who immediately vested it in Sir Edward North. He, in the 3d of Elizabeth, alienated it to Robert Gosnold, gent., when his son Thomas passed the advowson by sale to John Sedley, esq. of Southfleet, since which it has passed through the same ownerships with the manor, to William Glanvil Evelyn, esq., who afterwards sold them to Multon Lambard, esq.

Under Edward I. this church was valued at nine marks. In the return made to the *commission of Inquiry*, in 1650, Ridley was esteemed a parsonage, with a dwelling, and thirty-six acres of glebe land, the whole worth £50 a year.

In the king's books it stands at £3 19 $4\frac{1}{2}$, the yearly tenths being 7s. $5\frac{1}{4}$d. The actual value is about £120 per annum.

In 1821, there were ten dwellings in the parish of Ridley; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 36, females 38, making a total of 74 souls.

Adjoining Ridley, westward, lies Ash, called in the *Textus Roffensis, Æisce*, and in Domesday, *Eisse*.

Ash stands upon high ground, among the hills; the soil mostly chalk, the larger portion unfertile, and covered by flints. It contains 3000 acres, whereof 600 are wood. There are two

hamlets in the district, Hodsoll street and West Yoke. At the north-east boundary is Idley farm, but the whole parish is very irregularly formed, bounding no less than nine others. The church stands alone, nearly in the centre of the district, south of which, about a mile, is the manor and hamlet of South Ash. Eastward, on the declivity of the hill, contiguous to the valley, there is much coppice wood. The parish is little frequented, and has nothing further worthy mention appertaining to it.

At the survey of Domesday it belonged to the bishop of Bayeux, and on his disgrace was granted to Hubert de Burgh, earl of Kent.

Under Henry III. the parish seems to have been divided into THREE SEPARATE MANORS; the principal was called the MANOR OF ASH, otherwise NORTH ASH, having under that prince been possessed by Henry Pencombe. Under Edward III. the heirs of Robert Pencombe held it of the heirs of William de Eynsford; he, of the heirs of Ralph Fitzbernard; he, of Mabilia de Torpel; and she, of Roger de Moubray, and the heirs of the said Robert Pencombe then paid aid for the property.

Sir Thomas de Grandison, son of Otho, died holding this manor in the 50th of Edward III., and in the 22d of Richard II. it was the inheritance of Philippa, granddaughter of Sir Guy Brian, and widow of John Devereux, who married Sir Henry le Scrope, of Masham. She died under Henry IV. possessing Ash, &c. leaving Elizabeth, her sister, wife of Robert Lovel, her heir.

James Boteler, earl of Wiltshire, son of James, fourth earl of Ormond, subsequently possessed this manor, who, for adhering to the Lancastrians, was, by Henry VI., made earl of Wiltshire, Lord Treasurer, and knight of the Garter, but, being present at the battle of Towton field, in Yorkshire, gained by the Yorkists, was captured, and beheaded at Newcastle. His lands, being in consequence forfeited, this manor devolved to the crown, and was by Edward IV. granted to Henry viscount Bourchier, earl of Essex, and Isabel his wife, aunt of the king, and their heirs. Under Henry VI. he bore the title of earl of Ewe, and in the 25th year of that reign was summoned to Parliament by the title of Viscount Bourchier, and in the 1st of Edward IV.

created earl of Essex. He died in the 23d year of the latter prince, as did his widow Isabel in the 2d of Richard III., holding this manor, which devolved to their grandson, Henry Bourchier, who, in the 9th of Henry VII., had special possession granted of all the property to which he was heir, or of right descended to him.

He appears to have passed the estate to Sir Edward Poynings, a strong adherent of Henry VII., who died holding it in the 14th of Henry VIII., when, leaving no legitimate offspring, his estates became escheated to the crown. By the latter prince this property was granted to Thomas Cromwell, earl of Essex, after whose execution, again being vested in the crown, the same monarch, in his 36th year, granted it to Sir Martin Bowes, knight, to hold *in capite* by fealty only. His lands being disgavelled in the 2d and 3d of Edward VI. on his demise in 1566 he was succeeded by his son, William Bowes. The latter dying without male issue, the property became vested in his two daughters; Elizabeth, married to William Buggin, and Anne, wife of Sir Edmund Fowler, who became jointly possessed of this manor. On the division of the inheritance in 1634, it became the sole property of Sir Edward Fowler, whose family was of Islington, of whom Sir Thomas Fowler, by Jane Charlet his wife, had two sons, Sir Thomas, who in 1628 was created a baronet, that branch being extinct, and Sir Edmund, above referred to. They bore, *Azure, on a chevron, argent, between three fowls or, as many crosses, formee gules.* He died in 1645, and by will devised the property to his son, Nicholas, whose son Edmund leaving a daughter, she, in 1718, carried the estate in marriage to Multon Lambard, esq. afterwards knighted.

He died in 1758, leaving a widow, who held this manor for life, and dying in 1780 it became vested in Multon Lambard, esq. of Sevenoke. A court-baron is held for this manor.

The manor of Halywell, or Hodsoll, derived its former name from the Benedictine nunnery of Holywell, near Shoreditch, and the latter most probably from the Hodsoll family, once its lessees under that priory. In the 14th of Edward II. the prioress had certain liberties allowed for this estate in Ash. On the dissolution of the sisterhood, Henry VIII. granted this manor to Sir Martin Bowes, since which it has

passed through the same hands as the manor of Ash, to Multon Lambard, esq. of Sevenoke. A court-leet is held for this manor.

THE MANOR OF SOUTH ASH, whereof the hamlet stands a mile south from Ash church, was formerly held by a family which thence derived its name. Under Edward III. John de Southesse was owner of the same, who paid aid for it as two parts of a knight's fee, holding it of the manor of Kemsing and Seal, as again was that of the earl of Leinster.

On the extinction of that name it went to the Huddyshole's, William Huddyshole, or Hudsoll, having possessed it under Henry V. and VI. Mr. John Huddysole owned it under Henry VII. whose son of the same name succeeded, as was the latter by William Hodsoll, gent, who died in 1585. They bore for their arms, *Azure, a fess wavy, between three stone fountains, or wells argent*, which *fess* they had not anciently borne. Philipott conjectures these wells to have alluded to the name of Halywell, or Holywell, having, as above observed, been tenants of the priory for their estate in this parish. From Mr. William Hodsoll, this manor, and Hodsoll street continued in an uninterrupted line of ownerships toWilliam Hodsoll of Dartford and South Ash, who died in 1776, and by will left them on the demise of his widow to his cousin Mr. Charles Hodsoll, of Ash, who became possessed of them. A court is held for this manor, which ranks within the liberty of the duchy of Lancaster.

Formerly another manor existed in this parish, called also the *manor of Ash*, and latterly ASH, or ST. JOHN'S ASH, from having belonged to the knights of St. John of Jerusalem, who united it as an appendage to their manor of St. John's, in Sutton at Hone.

This estate anciently belonged to the Latimer's, one of whom, William de Latimer, sen. obtained a grant under Edward I., for a market on Thursdays, and a fair on the feasts of Sts. Peter and Paul, as well as *free warren* for all his demesne lands. He died holding it in the 1st of Edward III., whose grandson William held it in the 20th year of that prince, paying aid as the fourth part of a knight's fee, held of Roger de Mowbray, who held it of the king.

This manor passed to the name of Cressel, under Richard II.,

soon after which it was given to the Knights Hospitallers of St. John, who united it to their manor of Sutton at Hone, after which it had no separate court, and soon lost all name as a distinct manor. At the dissolution it fell into the hands of Henry VIII., and has had the same owners as the manors of St. John and Sutton, in the partition of which, under Charles I., between Sir Randyll Cranfield, and Sarah, countess of Leicester, the quit-rents in this parish were divided between the coparceners, and as such became the property of William and John Mumford, esqrs., lords of the separate moieties of that manor.

Scotgrove was anciently the estate of a family named Torpel, and once accounted a manor. Under Henry III. William de Faukeham held this estate of Mabilla, widow of John de Torpel, who had granted to him and his heirs in frank fee, to hold by the service of the fourth part of a knight's fee, which was confirmed by that monarch. His son, Jeffry de Faukeham, held it in like manner, and enfeoffed Richard de Gotowyk therein, who left three sons, of whom John, the eldest, died before the 6th of Edward II.

In the 20th of Edward III. William de Warren paid aid for the manor of Scotgrove, as it is called in the book for collecting it, as one fourth part of a knight's fee, which John de Gatewyk held in Ashe, at Scotgrove, of Roger de Moubray, and he of the king. Under Richard II. the Frankenham's were lords of the fee, who before the end of the reign of Henry V. were extinct, when it passed into the hands of the Colepeper's, and so continued until Jocosa, daughter of Nicholas Colepeper, carried this manor, held of Sir Edward Poynings, in marriage to Walter Lewknor, of Warbleton, in Sussex, being fifth son of Sir Thomas Lewknor, of Goring, in Essex, whose arms were, *Azure, three chevronels, argent.* He died under Henry VIII., and left the property to his son Humphry, who sold it to Thomas Fane, gent., of London, third son of John Fane, or Vane, of Tunbridge, who died the 24th of Henry VIII. He by will devised his estates in this parish to his son Thomas, whence they passed, after a period, to the Walter's, and thence to the Lambarde's, in which line they remained until vested in Multon Lambarde, esq. of Sevenoke.

A chapel formerly belonged to this property, the foundations

of which are apparent in a wood, called Chapel wood, with other remains, and a well, now covered over.

Ash is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The church, dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul, consists of three aisles, and three chancels, with a spire steeple at the west end. The altar was erected by the Rev. Mr. Atwood, formerly rector of this parish.

Among the monuments and inscriptions are the following: in the chancel, a gravestone with the figure of a man in brass, for Richard Galon, rector, and another for Thomas Maxfield. In the nave is a stone for William Hodsoll, of South Ash, and many more memorials for that family, and in the chapel is a marble monument for the family of the Fowler's. In the 15th of Edward I. this church was valued at twenty marks.

By a commission of Inquiry, instituted by order of the State, in 1650, it was returned that Ash was a parsonage, with a house and eleven acres of glebe land, the whole worth £120 per annum. The rectory was valued in the king's books at £9 18 4, and the yearly tenths at 19s. 10d.

In 1821 there were ninety-two dwellings in the parish of Ash; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 272, females 233, making a total of 505 souls.

Kingsdown lies southwestward of Ash, called in ancient records, *Kingledune* and *Kingesdune*.

This parish is near two miles and a half in length from north to south, and a mile in width. It is situated among the hills, on high ground, the soil chiefly thin, consisting either of chalk or red earth, covered with a rotten kind of flint stone, having altogether a very dreary and unpleasant appearance. The village of Kingsdown is situated about twenty-one miles from London, on the high road from that city, through Farningham, towards Wrotham and Maidstone. The church stands by itself, and appears singular in the midst of a wood, nearly eighty acres in extent, about a quarter of a mile from the village, and half a mile southward is the estate of Woodland. At the eastern boundary of the parish is Hever, with a large

wood eastward, and on the opposite side of the road, at the foot of the hills, stands Maplescome, with the ruins of the chapel.

It appears by the certificates of knight's fees, delivered into the Exchequer in the reign of Henry II., that Reginald de Cornhill, who resided at Minster, in Thanet, and was sheriff in the reign of John, held one knight's fee in Kingsdown, of William Fitzhelt, who held it of the king *in capite.*

The family of St. John, of Basing, next held this manor immediately of the king; of which line it was again held by the Fitzbernard's. In the reign of Henry III., John Fitzbernard held Kingsdowne of the king *in capite,* and died possessed of it in the 55th year of that reign; soon after which this estate seems to have been divided into moieties; and Philipott states, there were two manors, called North court and South court, which made up the estate held by the Fitzbernard's. These names we never heard of, though it is probable they were given to the separate moieties, one of which moieties descended to Ralph, son of John Fitzbernard, who died possessed of it under Edward I. He left a son, Thomas, and a daughter, Margaret, married to Guncelin de Badlesmere; Thomas died without issue in the 6th of Edward II., and Bona, his wife, held it in dower, on whose decease it passed to Giles, son of Bartholomew, the son of Guncelin de Badlesmere and Margaret Fitzbernard. He died in the 12th of Edward III., without issue, leaving his four sisters his heirs; Maud, wife of John de Vere, earl of Oxford; Margery, married to William lord Roos; Elizabeth, united to William de Bohun, earl of Northampton; and Margaret, who espoused John Tiptoft.

The other moiety seems to have continued in the name of Fitzbernard, as Sir John paid aid for it in the 20th of Edward III., as half a knight's fee, which Robert Fitzbernard had before held of John de St. John.

Sir John Fitzbernard died possessed of this part of Kingsdown manor in the 35th year of that reign, without issue; on which it devolved to the four sisters of Giles de Badlesmere, as his heirs, who possessed the whole of this manor as one knight's fee. On the division among them, it does not appear that Maud, wife of the earl of Oxford, had any part; Margery, wife of lord Roos, became entitled to a fourth part, held *in capite;* and her great grandson, Thomas, being attainted under

Edward IV., as being a Lancasterian, forfeited this estate, with his life, to the crown. The family of Roos bore for its arms, *Gules, three water bougets, argent.*

Elizabeth, wife of William de Bohun, earl of Northampton, became possessed of two other parts of a moiety, which continued in her descendants, by Edmund Mortimer, her first husband, down to Anne, only surviving sister of Edmund earl of March; on whose death she entitled her husband, Richard earl of Cambridge, to the possession of his interest therein, whose son, Richard duke of York, father of Edward IV., was slain at the battle of Wakefield, in the 30th of Henry VI. He died possessed of the above two portions of this manor, when the king was found to be his eldest son and heir.

Margaret, youngest sister and coheir of Giles de Badlesmere, wife of Sir John Tiptoft, had for her share the remaining fourth part of this manor. Their son and heir, Sir Thomas Tiptoft, died possessed of it under Edward III., leaving three daughters his coheirs, of whom, the youngest married Sir Philip le Despencer, and he, in right of his wife, possessed this part of the manor of Kingsdown, and died in the 2d of Henry VI., when the inheritance passed to Margery, their daughter, wife of Roger Wentworth, esq., her first husband having been John lord Roos, of Hamlake, great grandson of Margery, by William lord Roos, before mentioned. She survived both her husbands, and died in the 18th of Edward IV., possessed of this fourth part of the manor, which then escheated to the crown, but by what means does not appear.

The whole manor of Kingsdown being thus united in the crown, so remained till the reign of Henry VIII., who granted it, with certain woods, containing 186 acres, &c., to Jane Wilkinson, widow, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service. She, the following year, alienated this manor in Kingsdown to Thomas, son of Martin Bowes, to hold of the king in like manner. He passed it away by sale to Colonel Richard Lovelace, of Hever, afterwards knighted, and of Lovelace place, in Bethersden, who died in 1658, and was buried in St. Bride's church, London. His ancestor, Launcelet Lovelace, was of Bayford, in Sittingborne, and purchased the manor of Hever, in this parish. By the daughter and heir of Eynsham, he left three sons; Sir Richard, of Bethersden, who died without

issue; William, of whom hereafter; and John, who was ancestor of Sir Richard Lovelace, created, by Charles I., baron Lovelace, of Hurley, in Berkshire; which branch is now extinct.

William, the second son of Lancelot, died in 1501, leaving two sons, John, whose descendants settled at Bayford, in Sittingborne; and William, whose son, William, was a sergeant at law, and resided at the White Friars, in Canterbury; he died in 1576, leaving issue Sir William Lovelace, of Bethersden, who left one son, Sir William, of Woolwich, killed in the Low Countries. He left four sons, Richard of Hever, Francis, William, and Dudley Posthumous Lovelace. This branch of the family seated in Kent bore for its arms, *Gules on a chief, indented argent, three martlets sable;* the lords Lovelace bore the *chief sable and the martlets argent.*

Colonel Richard Lovelace, above mentioned, left an only daughter and heir, Margaret, who carried the estate, together with Hever and a moiety of Chipsted, both in this parish, in marriage to Henry Coke, esq. of Thurrington, in Suffolk, fifth son of the lord chief-justice Coke, descended from William Coke, of Doddington, in Norfolk. Henry Coke, before mentioned, had by Margaret his wife, four sons, of whom only Richard and Ciriac lived; but from the latter no issue remained. In the family of Coke these estates continued till 1784, when Thomas Coke sold them to Duncan Campbell, esq. merchant of London.

The manor of Hever was part of the possessions of the ancient family of Hever, frequently written in old records *Evere*, which line was of Hever castle, in this county, whence the present estate derived its name. The manor eventually passed to the family of the Coke's, when William Coke, esq., in 1784, sold it, as above mentioned. The arms of Lovelace, together with the quarterings, were in the windows of an ancient chapel, the remains of which are now used as a farmhouse.

Chepsted is a manor, held under Edward I. by William de Mowbray and William de Chepsted as the twentieth part of a knight's fee, of the heirs of Ralph Fitzbernard, by whom it was held of the king. In the 20th of Edward III., the heirs of John Chepsted paid the above aid, which Isabella, widow of

Stephen de Kingsdown, had before held of the manor of Swanscombe. Adam de Chepsted died holding this manor in the 41st year of the above reign.

John Martin, justice of the Common Pleas, owned this manor at the opening of the reign of Henry VI., and his son, John, alienated it to Thomas Underdown, of Dartford, who soon after gave it to Mr. Richard Thatcher, of Warbilton, in Sussex. He, under Edward IV., sold it to William at Wode; and his son, Robert, the 13th of Henry VIII., devised one moiety of Chepsted to Nicholas Taylor, by whose son, William, in the 1st of May, it was passed to Sir John Champneis, of Bexley, who died possessing it in the 4th year of that prince. Of his sons, Justinian, the youngest, was the sole survivor, who conveyed this moiety by sale to Colonel Richard Lovelace, whose daughter, Margaret, carried it by marriage to Henry Coke, esq. of Tharrington. Since that period, this portion, called for distinction *Chepsted Hever*, continued with the manor of Kingsdown, Hever, &c.; and passed ultimately to Robert Wenman Coke, esq., whose son sold it to Mr. Duncan Campbell, of London, merchant.

The other moiety of Chepsted was demised by Robert at Wood, in the reign of Henry VIII., to Sibill, of Littlemote, in Eynsford; from whom it went by marriage to Mr. John Hope, who passed it to Mr. William Hodsoll, of South Ash and Dartford, and he died possessed of it in 1776, having devised his interest to his widow. On her death it was vested in his cousin, Mr. Charles Hodsoll, of Ash; while the remaining two thirds became the property of the heirs of the late Mr. Edward Hodsoll, of St. Mary Cray, and of Richard Gee Carew, esq. of Orpington.

MAPLESCOMBE, written in the *Textus Roffensis* MAPELDRESKAMPE, and now called *Mapscumbe*, is a manor, and formerly accounted a parish by itself, though it has long been united to Kingsdown. It had once a seat, the estate being partly in Kingsdown and part in Eynsford.

This place, at the survey of Domesday, was possessed by Odo bishop of Bayeux, and divided into two separate estates, under the title of his lands, in that record. After his disgrace, William de Arsick held one of these estates, as a knight's fee, of the castle of Dover, to which it owed service.

In the reign of Edward I., William de Valoins held of the king, *in capite,* a moiety of the manor of Maplescomp, by the service of finding one halfpenny for the king's offering, whensoever he should come to hear mass at this place. In the 18th of Edward I., Roger de Mereworth owned this manor, and obtained *free warren* for his lands here. John de Mereworth succeeded him, and died possessed of the estate without issue; when it passed to the names of Malmains, Sir John de Brembre, and John Hermensthorpe, who passed it to Richard Fitzalan, earl of Arundel. His descendant dying without issue, it devolved to his three sisters, coheirs, viz. Elizabeth, duchess of Norfolk; Joan, wife of William Beauchamp, lord Abergavenny; and Margaret, married to Sir Rowland Lenthall.

Upon a division of their inheritance, one moiety of Maplescombe became the property of Joan, on whose death it descended to her son, Richard Beauchamp, earl of Worcester, and Lord Abergavenny; and, after passing through the descendants of this family, the moiety was sold to the family of the Lovelace's, who eventually possessed the whole estate.

The above moiety appears by the *Testa de Nevill,* to have been, under Henry III., in the possession of William de Chellesfield, from which line it afterwards went to Shoveholt, and from him to the family of the Rokesle's. Joan, wife of Thomas de Rokesle, died possessed of it in the 40th year of that reign, when it passed into the possession of Sir John Wisham, who died possessed of it in the 4th of Richard II., leaving Sir William Peche his son and next heir.

How long this part of Maplescombe continued in that family we do not find, but it afterwards passed into the name of Chicksand, whence it was conveyed by sale to John Lovelace, esq., owner of the other moiety of this manor.

In the 4th of Elizabeth a fine was levied, when it passed into the younger branches of the same name, and was carried by a daughter in marriage to Henry Coke, of Thurrington, in Suffolk, a descendant of whom dying without issue, bequeathed it in 1759 to his widow, after which it ultimately devolved, in 1784, to Mr. Duncan Campbell, merchant, of London.

The church of Maplescombe has been long in ruins; in the 15th of Edward I. it was valued at 100s. The remains are situated in a corn field, amidst a deep valley, about half a mile

from the ancient seat, now a farm-house. In ploughing near the walls, where probably the cemetery was situated, human bones have been turned up; the walls are of great thickness, and the windows were turned with semicircular arches, rounded off. This parish was united to Kingsdown in 1638.

The feefarm paid to the crown for the manor of Maplescombe is £1 1 8½.

WOODLAND, otherwise WEEK, is a manor here, considered in its civil jurisdiction, as part of the parish of Kingsdown. It lies in the hundred of Codsheath, and the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION is within the *deanery* of Shoreham, having been united to Wrotham in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, since which the church has been in ruins.

Woodland, called in the *Textus Roffensis*, WATLANDE, formerly belonged to the family of the Crevequer's, Hamon of that name having died possessed of it in the 47th of Henry III.

In the 9th of Edward III. John St. Clere enjoyed it, and another of the same name possessed it at his death, whose descendant passed it away to one Pett of Sevenoak, whose successor sold it to William Rowe, of London. From that name it was carried in marriage to a Jenny, of Norfolk, who, in the reign of Charles I., settled it on his daughter, and from her it passed to the name of Bowles, in whose descendants it continued down to Oldfield Bowles, esq., owner of the estate in 1780.

A court-baron is held for this manor, and the tenants pay a *heriot* on every death.

The church of Woodland anciently contributed nine-pence *chrism rent* to the mother church of the diocese. It stood in a field near the manor house, and on being desecrated, the building lay neglected, and so continued till some years back, when it was pulled down, and the stones removed; the foundations are still visible. In the 15th of Edward I. it was valued at seven marks.

The rector and vicar of Wrotham receive all ecclesiastical emoluments within the district of the chapel of Woodland, which they only possessed till a chapel could be built for the use of the inhabitants. There are twenty acres held by the rector of Wrotham, as part of his glebe.

KINGSDOWN, excepting the manor of WOODLAND, is within

the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The church, dedicated to St. Edmund the king, is small, having a low tower and shingled spire. It consists of one aisle and a chancel, containing only a single gravestone, on which were the figures of a man and woman, with their children, all now obliterated; the inscription, however, in black letter, remains, commemorating John Lovelace, esq., and Mary his wife, who died in 1500, but the shield of arms is gone. There are some good remains of stained glass; in the third window appears the figure of Christ on an altar tomb, with his hands and feet extended, as upon the cross, being very ancient.

In the churchyard are two yew trees, the smaller of which measures 22½ feet in circumference.

In the windows of Hever house are the arms of the Lovelace's, and in the casements of the chapel, now pulled down, were also their shields and quarterings.

In the 15th of Edward I. this church was valued at ten marks. By the *commission of Inquiry*, in 1650, it was returned that Kingsdown cum Maplescumbe was a parsonage, with a house and glebe land, worth £90 per annum.

The church of Kingsdown, with Maplescombe annexed, is valued in the king's books at £9 1 8, the yearly tenths being 18s. 2d.

In 1821 there were seventy dwellings in the parish of Kingsdown; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 226, females 212, making a total of 438 souls.

Northward from Kingsdown lies HORTON KIRKBY, containing about 3000 acres of land, of which 400 are wood. It extends about two miles eastward, to elevated ground, and near the boundaries are the two hamlets of Pinden and Dean bottom. It is chalky, and much covered with flints; the soil very barren, except towards the Darent, where it is more fertile.

The river runs along the eastern side of the parish, and on the bank stands Horton castle, of which considerable ruins still remain, part being fitted up as the court lodge, or farm-house of the manor, near which is the church. About half a mile

distant lies the hamlet of South Darent, once esteemed a parish, lying partly in Darent and Horton. In the latter still remain the flint walls of an ancient building, most probably the church or chapel of South Darent, now used as a malt-house, and contiguous is a corn-mill, and a spacious modern fabric built by Mr. Thomas Williams.

Near the church is the village of Horton, close to the Darent, and a little beyond the venerable mansion of Franks, with the parsonage. At the south end of the village is Kirkby house, and on the rise of the hill above, Reynold's place, now occupied as a farm-house.

The latter building was anciently part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, on whose disgrace, one knight's fee, part of that bishop's lands, was held of the archbishop of Canterbury, by Simon de Montfort, earl of Leicester, as of the honour of Newberry.

The manor of Horton, notwithstanding the forfeiture of Odo, of whom it was held by the family of De Ros, remained in that line, one of whom built Horton castle. His descendants, Alexander de Ros, and William, held one knight's fee in Horton and Lullingstone; and Richard de Ros, in the reign of Henry III., left an only daughter Lora, who, from her possessions, was styled, *the lady of Horton.* She carried her interest in this place in marriage to Roger de Kirkby, who re-edified Horton castle, and new built the mansion of Kirkby court, his property having been so considerable, that the parish itself received the addition of his name, called Horton Kirkby, to distinguish it from other districts of the same name in this county. In the reign of Richard II. a female heir carried Horton castle, and the manors, this having become one, in marriage to Thomas Stonar, of Stonar, in Oxon; who, as descended from the heir general of the Kirkby's, quartered their arms. From the family of Stonar it passed to John Nevill, marquis Montacute, thence to Thomas lord Wentworth, and by fine and recovery to Robert Rudston and Thomas Walsingham, when the whole of the interest of the latter was conveyed to the former, and Horton castle, with Kirkby manor, became the property of Robert Rudston. Anne, daughter of Isaac Rudston, carried the estate to Samuel Michel, of Old Windsor, and she died in 1669, being

succeeded by the heir of her eldest son, John Michel, who devised the property to the provost and scholars of Queen's college, Oxford, in whom it is now vested.

At the court-leet of this manor a constable is appointed for the parish of Horton Kirkby.

The mansion of Kirkby Court went from Sir Thomas Walsingham, in the reign of Elizabeth, to Cuthbert Hackett, of London, alderman. It afterwards passed to the name of Payne, and thence to a Collett, who sold it to Mr. Arnold, who in 1730 conveyed it to Thomas Polhill, esq. He left the estate to his three daughters, and from the latter family, in 1738, the sole property of this seat was conveyed to Richard Hornsby, esq. sheriff of the county in 1749, who left it to his widow and daughters, when they sold it to Mr. Edward Homewood, who resided there.

Franks is an eminent seat in this parish, situated on the banks of the Darent; it was in the possession of a family, who removed hither from Yorkshire, and wrote their name Frankish. That name becoming extinct, it passed by sale to the Martin's, thence to the Bathurst's, who rebuilt this seat, and in their descendants it continued down to Francis Bathurst, who was of Franks. He had four wives, and only left issue by the first, a daughter, who carried Franks in marriage to Mr. Joseph Fletcher, of London, thence by marriage to John Tasker, esq. of Dartford, who in 1757 became sole possessor of this seat, where he resided, and died in 1796, leaving his widow, who afterwards possessed this estate.

In the windows of the mansion are the arms of the Bathurst's.

Reynolds Place lies at a small distance from Kirkby Court, and was, in ancient times, the seat of a family of the name of Reynolds, in which it continued to the reign of Edward IV., when it passed by sale to Sir John Browne. In his descendants it remained till the estate was sold, under Charles I. to Sir John Jacob, of Gamlingay, in Cambridgeshire, who, remaining stedfast in his loyalty to the king, was a great sufferer, and compelled to part with his estates, when, among others, this was sold to Sir Harbottle Grimstone, of Bradfield, in Essex. He alienated the estate to Sir John Beal, of Farningham, who left two daughters, by one of whom it was con-

veyed in marriage to Sir George Hanger, and in his descendants the property remained to Lord Coleraine, who in 1774 conveyed it by sale to Mr. David Powell, of London.

PINDEN is a hamlet in this parish, situated a mile southward from Horton church. In the survey of Domesday it is entered under the possessions of the bishop of Bayeux, upon whose disgrace the see of Rochester appears to have had some property in this estate.

HORTON KIRKBY is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *deanery* of Dartford, and *diocese* of Rochester. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is built in the form of a cross, with a spire steeple in the centre. Among other monuments are several for the family of the Bathurst's, also a memorial for John Browne, and a tomb most probably for one of the lords de Ros, patrons of this church; in the cemetery are also vaults for the Tasker's and the Lane's.

Horton is a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear value of £39 1 3, the yearly tenths being 10s. 9d.

There was a PERPETUAL CHANTRY founded in the parish church of Horton, and, from the survey, it appears that the clear yearly value was 62s. 8½d, the whole being an annual income of £3 6 8, payable from the late monastery of Boxley.

In 1821 there were eighty-eight dwellings in the parish of Horton Kirkby; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 263, females 274, making a total of 537 souls.

FARNINGHAM lies the next parish southward from Horton, called in Domesday *Ferlingeham* and *Ferningeham*, and in other records, *Fremingham*, which signifies a village near the running stream.

The high road from London, through Footscray, towards Wrotham and Maidstone, crosses this parish, along which it extends nearly five miles, the average breadth being one mile and a quarter. The river Darent meanders across the parish, in the midst of a valley of fertile meadows, whence the hills rise towards the east and west; the approaches from which eminences, on either side, present the most picturesque land-

scapes that can be imagined. The village is situated on either side of the road, in the midst of the valley close to the Darent, over which is a handsome brick bridge of four arches, built at the charge of the county. Not far distant stands the mansion of Mr. Fuller; and contiguous, the church and vicarage, with other houses interspersed, as well as two capital inns; the whole forming a situation remarkably healthy and pleasant. On the western hill is PETHAM PLACE; and opposite, the house of CHARTONS and CHIMBHAM'S FARM; and on the same hill, Eglantine; while upon the opposite eminence, is an estate called *the Folly*. The parish of Eynsford, southward, reaches nearly to the back of the village. There are about 4000 acres of land in this district, whereof 140 are wood, 80 very fertile meadow land, and the remainder arable. The ground is chiefly chalk, excepting near Kingsdown, where it presents a strong heavy tillage soil, of which description is the land of Petham Place farm, though not so much covered with flint stones.

The liberty of the dutchy of Lancaster claims over this parish.

In 1728 a slight shock of an earthquake was felt in these parts, at which time a piece of ground in a meadow at Farningham fell in, so as to leave a pit eight or ten feet over, and nearly as deep, which being on a level with the river, was soon filled with water to within three or four feet of the summit. The piece of ground in question had previously been sufficiently sound to bear carriages.

In the reign of the Conqueror, Ansgotus de Ros held this estate of the archbishop by knight's service, which was entered in Domesday under the title of the archbishop's lands. Besides the above-mentioned estate, the bishop of Bayeux was possessed of considerable lands in this district, entered in Domesday under the general title of his possessions.

The estate held of the archbishop by Ansgotus de Ros seems to have been the one now called Chartons, while the other, held of the bishop of Bayeux, was that afterwards styled the MANOR OF FARNINGHAM, which, upon his disgrace, was granted to William de Arsick, of whom, that before mentioned was again held as one knight's fee by the family of De Ros. In the reign of Edward I., Alicia de Ros held three quarters of a knight's fee in Farningham, in dower, of Richard de Ros. This estate

afterwards passed to a family called De Spield; soon after which it was conveyed to that of De Fremingham; and after passing through numerous descendants, in default of issue, devolved to Roger Isley, of Sundbridge. From his descendants it passed in exchange to William Roper, esq. of Eltham, who bequeathed it to his son, Sir Anthony, who was knighted at the coronation of James I. He gave this estate by will to Sir John Cotton, who passed it to Sir John Beale, one of whose daughters carried the manor in marriage to Sir George Hanger, whose son new built the manor-house, which was burnt down in 1740, while yet unfinished. This estate continued in the latter family till sold to Mr. Thomas Fuller, who subsequently possessed the same.

CHARTONS is a reputed manor in this parish, anciently called *Farningham Parva*, and appears to have been once esteemed a moiety of the manor of Farningham. On the survey of Domesday, this estate was held by Ansgotus de Ros, of the archbishop of Canterbury, from whom it went to the name of Ceriton, or Charton; after which, it appears to have been separated into two moieties, one of which was held by William de Isley, whence it descended in the same line of ownership as Farningham manor, to Sir Anthony Roper. He gave it by will to Sir John Cotton, who conveyed this estate to Mr. Benjamin Cracker, whose two sons divided this moiety of Chartons between them. That portion containing the mansion, with half the land contiguous, was allotted to Benjamin; while Joseph had for his share the farm called Eglantine and that part of the land near the river. The moiety held by the latter was alienated to Mr. Joseph Cox, of this parish, and that of the former, in 1742, conveyed to John Fullarton, esq., who sold it to William Hanger, esq., from whom it descended to Mr. Thomas Fuller.

PETHAM, or PEDHAM PLACE, is situated about half a mile from Farningham, on the high road hence to London, and was formerly possessed by a family of that name. It then passed by sale to the Roper's; and thence to the Cotton's, who conveyed it to Sir Edward Bathurst, of Horton Kirkby. It afterwards became the property of John Calcraft, esq. of Ingress, whose son subsequently sold it to Sir John Dyke.

CHIMBHAMS, or CHIMMANS, is another manor, situated at

the eastern bounds of this parish, and anciently conferred its name on a family that owned it in the reign of Henry III. From their descendants it passed to the name of Fremingham, and thence to the Isley's, who sold it to Sibill; from whom it went in marriage to one Hide; then to the Bunce's; the Whitaker's; and ultimately to Mr. Cooper, of Riverhead, whose widow possessed the property.

FARNINGHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and being a *peculiar* of the archbishop, is within the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church, dedicated to Sts. Peter and Paul, consists of one aisle and a chancel, with a tower at the west end. In this edifice is a very ancient octagonal font, embellished by emblamatical figures, carved on each compartment. Seven of these sculptures seem to have represented the seven sacraments of the Romish church; but the whole are so incrusted over with paint, that the beauty is entirely destroyed.

Among other monuments, are as follow: tombs for Sir William Gylborne, vicar; Henry Farebrace; and John Pendleberry. Memorials for Elizabeth Emmerton; Lady Jane Beale; Anthony Roper, esq.; and a brass for Allice Taillon. There are also several slabs for the families of the Sibill's and the Petham's; together with a costly monument, in the churchyard, erected by Thomas Nash, esq., who died at Paris in 1778, his remains, with others of his family, having been here deposited. This vicarage is valued in the king's books at £9 5 10, the yearly tenths being 18s. 7d.

In 1821 there were ninety-seven dwellings in the parish of Farningham; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 332, females 254, making a total of 586.

Southward from Farningham lies EYNSFORD, sometimes written *Aynsford*, so named from a noted *ford* over the river Darent.

The parish extends about four miles from east to west, and three from north to south; on the northern side it reaches nearly to Farningham; contiguous to which stood the ancient manor of Sibill's; while towards the west, over the hills, is Wested farm, and the obscure hamlet of Crockenhill, both

within its bounds, amidst a quantity of woodlands; the soil is in general chalky, except towards the west, where there is some tillage land. The village of Eynsford is situated near the south-west bounds of the parish, in the valley on the banks of the Darent, over which is a bridge, repaired at the charge of the county. At the north end of the village, near the river, are the remais of Eynsford castle, and at the south end, the church; beyond which, the parish extends southward, on the chalk hills; and near the boundaries, is Ashton lodge.

This place was given by Alphege to Christ church, in Canterbury, when archbishop Dunstan flourished. At the survey of Domesday, Eynsford was held of the archbishop of Canterbury by knight's service, and entered under the general title of the possessions of that see.

In the reign of Henry II., a family of the name of Eynsford possessed this place, one of whom, William, was sheriff of London in that reign; he bore for his arms, *A fretty ermine.* William de Eynsford held the MANOR and CASTLE of Archbishop Becket; while in the reign of Edward I., it was possessed by the family of the Criol's. It then passed by sale to the Zouche's, of Harringworth; after which it went to the name of Chaworth, and was conveyed by sale to Sir Percival Hart in the reign of Henry VIII.; subsequent to which, the property descended to Sir John Dixon Dyke, bart.

There are still considerable ruins of Eynsford castle, the walls, formed of squared flints, nearly four feet thick, being entire to the height of forty feet. The circuit is of a very irregular form, comprising about three quarters of an acre, and in the middle is a strong keep, or dungeon. The remains stand at a small distance eastward from the Darent, between which and the castle is much rubbish, and the foundations of buildings; there are also the remains of a broad moat, now dried up.

Many lands in Eynsford are held of this manor, by annual quit-rents. A constable is chosen at the court-leet for the liberty of Eynsford.

SOUTH COURT is a manor, anciently part of the estate of the family of the Eynsford's, and formerly parcel of Eynsford castle. John de St. Clere possessed this estate in the reign of Edward III., whence it passed to the Dinham's, as John Dinham

died possessed of the property in the 17th of Henry VIII.; from the latter name it passed to Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Allington castle, and was by that family sold to one Hart.

Since this unity of possession, the style of these manors has been, the castle and manor of Eynsford cum Southcourt, by which title they descended to Sir John Dixon Dyke, bart.

THE MANOR OF ORKESDEN, the mansion of which is now called ASTON LODGE, was anciently possessed by a family which took its name from residence here, William de Orkesden having held half a knight's fee in Eynsford, by knight's service, of the archbishop.

In the reign of Edward III., Reginald de Cobham was possessed of this manor, who died in the 35th year of that reign, leaving Reginald his son, and a widow, surviving; on the decease of the latter, their son possessed this manor, who was of Sterborough castle, in Surrey. The property then passed in marriage to Sir Edward Borough, from whom it devolved to the names of Sandbache; Lennard; Duke; Tench; and ultimately to Sir John Dixon Dyke, bart.

On the western side of this parish, next to St. Mary Cray, lies the HAMLET OF CROCKENHILL, which, under Edward IV., was in the possession of the prioress of Dartford, where it remained till the dissolution, under Henry VIII., who granted this manor to Percival Hart, esq., to hold *in capite;* whose son died possessed of it, after which it descended in the same manner as his other estates, to Sir John Dixon Dyke, bart.

LITTLE MOTE and PETHAM COURT are manors at the opposite sides of this parish, having been for many generations part of the possessions of the family of the Sibill's, who resided at a mansion bearing that name, which was situated in Little or Lower Mote; they bore for their arms, *Argent, a tiger gules, viewing himself in a glass or mirror azure.* This estate was much augmented, by one of that line, under Henry VIII., marrying the female heir of the Cowdale's, who bore for their arms, *Argent, a chevron gules between three cows' heads caboshed sable;* which coat, both impaled and quartered with Sibill, Philipott says, was in his time remaining in the mansion, in painted glass, as well as carved work.

In that family Petham court continued, till carried by mar-

riage to Robert Bosevile, esq., with whom it remained till again conveyed in marriage to Sir Robert Marsham, bart., whose great grandson, lord Romney, afterwards possessed the estate.

The manor of *Littlemote*, with *Sibills*, became the property of Sir Henry Bosvile, who died in 1702, without issue, and devised this manor and estate to his kinsman, Robert Bosvile, esq. of Staffordshire. His son, of the same name, in 1755, sold it in several parcels to different persons; since which it has not been of sufficient consequence to require notice. The old mansion of Sibills has been pulled down, and two tenements erected upon the site.

EYNSFORD is in the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and being a *peculiar* of the archbishop, in the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church, dedicated to St. Martin, stands at the south-east end of the village, which, from its form, appears to be one of our early Norman structures, and coeval with the castle. It is in the form of a cross, with two large wings or side chancels; that southward having belonged to the family of the Sibill's; and afterwards to that of the Bosville's, several of whose gravestones are so covered with rubbish, as to be quite illegible, while the place itself, through continued neglect, is hastening to complete ruin; the north chancel, however, is kept in good repair. In this chancel, according to Weever, was a stone, whereon was engraved, in curious antique characters, *Ici gis . . . . . la famme de la Roberg de Eckisford*, perhaps thus spelt for Einesford, and if so, this chancel might have belonged to the Eynsford's, lords of the manor and castle. At the west end is a spire steeple, and beneath, a curious circular doorway, of Saxon, or very early Norman architecture. There are several monuments and inscriptions for the families of the Gifford's; the Bosvile's; and the Crime's. In the 15th of Edward I., this church was valued at thirty marks.

The rectory of Eynsford stands estimated in the king's books at £12 16 8, the yearly tenths being £1 5 8; the value of the vicarage is £12, and the tenths £1 4.

In 1821 there were 196 dwellings in the parish of Eynsford; and at the same period, when the last census of the population

was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 546, females 531, making a total of 1077 souls.

LULLINGSTONE adjoins Eynsford to the south, called in the *Textus Roffensis*, *Lullingeston*, and in Domesday *Lolingestone*. This parish is small, having no village, and nearly the whole the property of Sir John Dyke. Lullingstone house stands in the valley, at the eastern boundary of the park, on the western bank of the Darent, a situation too low and damp to be either healthy or pleasant. On the north side stands the church, whence the chalk hills rise eastward and westward, and though more barren, are nevertheless healthier. Through this park, close by the ancient gateway to Lullingstone house, is a public road, leading from Eynsford to Shoreham.

This place was formerly possessed by the bishop of Bayeux, and entered as such in Domesday record.

Lullingstone being afterwards held by the family of De Ros, acquired the name of Lullingstone Ros; in the reign of Edward I. it was possessed by the family of the Rokesle's, and so descended till conveyed to Sir John Peche. This estate then continued in a long line of succession to Sir John Peche, who died possessed of Lullingstone manor under Henry VIII., leaving his wife surviving, to whom that monarch, in his especial favor, granted an annuity of ten marks a year, for her life. On her death, Elizabeth, his sister, was found to be his heir, and her husband, John Hart, esq., became possessed of the property in her right. In that family it remained till 1738, when it was carried in marriage by a female heir to Sir Thomas Dyke, bart. of Sussex. He dignified the mansion in calling it Lullingstone castle, by which name it has ever since been designated; whereas, in respect to Lullingstone castle, the reader will find an account of it when treating of the parish of Shoreham, as it is evident, from all records, it was the same that is now known by the name of Shoreham castle, the ruins of which appear near the river, at a small distance from the south gate of Lullingstone park. Sir Thomas Dyke died in 1756, and Sir John Dixon Dyke succeeded to this estate, which he considerably improved.

The parish of LULLINGSTONE is in the ECCLESIASTICAL

JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Dartford; the church, dedicated to St. Botolph, consists of one aisle and two chancels, having a low pointed steeple at the west end. This church is remarkable for the neat manner in which it is kept; it is paved with black and white marble, the pews wainscoted, the windows adorned with stained glass, and the ceiling is ornamented with stucco. The ancient screen separating the nave from the chancel remains entire, being of oak, and a most beautiful piece of Gothic work, with a balustrade at the summit. The monuments are in excellent preservation, and the whole resembles a nobleman's costly chapel, rather than a parochial country church, thus offering an example worthy to be imitated by the patrons of other churches.

In this edifice are memorials for the families of the Rokesle's; a tomb for Sir William Peche; and a sacrophagus for Sir Percival Hart, with the arms of Hart and Peche quarterly.

Under the windows at the east end is a tomb of alabaster, for Sir George Hart and family; on the west side of the chancel, a beautiful Gothic monument, in stucco, in form of a screen, ornamented with shields of arms, for Percival Hart, esq., the munificent repairer and beautifier of this church; and on the north side, a very elegant mural monument, with two fine urns of marble, in memory of Dame Anne Dyke. The windows are filled with stained glass, in high preservation, many panes representing scriptural subjects, intermixed with shields of arms, commemorative of the Peche's; the Hart's; and the Dyke's.

The rectory of Lullingstone is a discharged living in the king's books, of the yearly value of £39 1 3, the annual tenths being 15s. 8d. It was, in 1734, augmented by the governors of Queen Anne's Bounty, at which period Dr. Henchman contributed £100, for the same purpose.

In 1821 there were five dwellings in the parish of Lullingstone; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 26, females 15, making a total of 41 souls.

Drawn by Campion

Engraved by J. Rogers

BARTON.

FROM THE GROUNDS OF LANDEL ESQ.

Drawn by G. Shepherd.

Engraved by H. Adlard.

DARTFORD, KENT.

MARKET DAY.

THE HUNDRED OF
DARTFORD AND WILMINGTON

LIES eastward from that of Little and Lesnes. This hundred was not in being at the time of the Conquest, but has been created long since.

It contains the parishes of DARTFORD and WILMINGTON, both of which, in the survey of Domesday, are described as lying within the adjoining hundred of Axstane.

DARTFORD lies the next parish eastward from Crayford, on the high road from London to Dover, about fifteen miles from the former. It was called in Saxon *Derentford;* in Latin, *Derenti Vadum*, signifying the *forde* or *passage* over the river Darent; and in Domesday it is written *Tarentefort.*

This parish includes within its bounds almost the whole of Dartford heath and the Brent, containing about 4300 acres of land. The town has about 400 houses, and 2500 inhabitants; the upland parts are thin and gravelly, the crops being greatly increased by the culture of turnips; the valleys are a fertile and rich loam, and the northern part marsh land, which reaches to the Thames, containing about 800 acres, none of which are ever ploughed. The town of Dartford is situated in a valley between two hills, that rise sudden and steep at each end; on that at the western extremity are chalk pits, which have been worked beneath to a considerable extent, presenting a fearful and dangerous appearance to travellers; and the opposite hill is a deep sandy loam. Dartford is a handsome wealthy town, increasing in size and population; the principal street is the great thoroughfare from London to Dover, in which are several excellent inns. From this street, southward, branches off the high road through Farningham to Sevenoak, in which stands Horseman's place; northward from the High street is Water lane, so called from the little stream, the Cranford, that rises about a mile and a half southward of the town, at Hawley, which runs through it, leading to the wharfs at the water-side;

not far distant from which stands the Place house, formerly the priory, with the buildings belonging thereto, now used as a farm-house; adjoining which is a piece of land, enclosed by a wall, formerly belonging to the priory, the soil extremely rich, which has been for many years used as a public garden-ground. The artichokes growing there are noted for being the largest and best-flavored of any conveyed to London. There is a good market, and an annual fair; the old pavement has been greatly improved, by a handsome footpath, with curbstones on either side; near the east end is the church, almost adjoining the river Darent, which crosses the high road under a handsome bridge. In the reign of Edward III. there was no bridge here, the passage or ferry over the Darent being valued among the rents of the manor; one was however built before the end of the reign of Henry VI., but it was narrow, steep, and dangerous for travellers, till altered to the present structure, at the expense of the county.

A little below the bridge, the Darent becomes navigable for barges; and at the distance of about two miles, receives the river Cray, and soon after joins the Thames. On this creek there was formerly a considerable fishery, as appears by the records, for, in the reign of James I., the royal manor of Dartford received for the fishery six salmons, yearly, a fish now unknown here; and the manor of Dartford priory also received a yearly rent of £50, for a fishery, whereas no fishery exists here at present.

In the survey of the several maritime places made in the reign of Elizabeth, Dartford is said to have contained 182 inhabited houses; persons without habitations six, quays four, ships and boats seven; Sir Thomas Walsingham having been steward of the town, and warden of Rochester bridge.

In the reign of Henry III., the archbishop of Cologne was sent hither with several noblemen, by the emperor Frederic, to demand Isabella, the king's sister, in marriage, which was solemnized by proxy in this town, when she was delivered to them, to be conveyed abroad. In 1331, Edward III., on his return from France, held a famous tournament in this town. In the 5th of Richard II., a great commotion of the common people began at this place, occasioned by Wat Tyler having killed one of the collectors of the poll tax, on which occasion

the people broke into open rebellion, when he soon found himself at the head of 100,000 men.

Thus attended, he marched directly to London, freeing all the prisoners detained in the public gaols, among whom was a priest of Maidstone, one John Ball, called John Straw, who by seditious sermons raised the popular fury to the highest pitch, and in conformity with his precepts, they resolved to destroy all the nobility and lawyers in the realm, he having persuaded them, that all men being sons of Adam, should permit no distinction, having in his sermons also used the following rhyme:

> "When Adam delfe, and Eve span,
> Who was then a gentleman."

Upon their arrival in London, after having committed the most horrid barbarities, the king repaired to Smithfield, who despatched a knight to Tyler, desiring a conference, which the rebel, after some deliberation, complied with. During the interview, Tyler behaved with so much insolence, that William Walworth, lord mayor, without considering the consequences, discharged such a blow at the rebel's head, with his sword, that he instantly fell dead, upon which the multitude threw down their arms and surrendered.

About half a mile southwestward from the town, is the large plain called DARTFORD HEATH, containing about 500 acres of land. It lies high, on a fine gravelly soil. This heath was much noted as being the spot chosen by the corps of *Toxophilites*, under the appellation of the *Royal Kentish Bowmen*, for whose use a house was fitted up at the western side of the heath, and distinguished by the name of the lodge.

Less than half a mile eastward from the town lies another heath, called DARTFORD BRENT, famous as having been the spot for the encampment of the army of Richard Plantagenet, duke of York, in 1452, while awaiting a parley with Henry VI. In 1648 the forces of General Fairfax also rendezvoused at this place.

The Roman road shows itself very conspicuous on the south side of the high road, between Dartford and the Brent, and on gaining the latter it shapes its course more to the south-east, leaving the high road at a greater distance on the left hand, when entering the enclosures and woods in its way to a hamlet

called Stonewood, it proceeds to Wingfield bank, and thence to Shinglewell, in the route for Rochester.

At a small distance southward from the Roman road, on the Brent, close to the road to Greensted green, are three small barrows, which appear to have been plundered of their contents. The gravel pit at the entrance of the Brent from Dartford, was, while the assizes were held in this town, at the latter end of the reign of Elizabeth, a spot for the execution of criminals; and in 1772, in digging for gravel, eight human skeletons were found, most probably the remains of some unhappy convicts.

Edward, eldest son of Sir Edward Villiers, was, in the 3d of William and Mary, created Viscount Dartford, and Baron Hoo, of this county, and in 1697 earl of Jersey, which titles are now possessed by his descendant.

There was once a family of the name of Row, seated in Dartford, of whom William had two sons, Reynold, who was of Lyghe, ancestor to those of Penshurst, in this county.

This place, at the Norman Conquest, was part of the ancient demesne of the crown, and entered under that title in Domesday record.

In the reign of Henry II. the manor of Dartford was granted to the earl of St. Paul, a Norman lord, who, going to the Holy Land, had the king's licence to mortgage his property at Dartford for three years. Henry III., in his 14th year, granted to John de Burgo the manor of Dartford, which had belonged to the earl of St. Paul, till the king should at his pleasure restore it to the earl's right heirs for their support in his service. But, when the king of France seized the lands held by the English, in Normandy, the king of England, in like manner, claimed those held by the Normans here, when these lands became vested in the crown by escheat, under the title of *Terræ Normannorum*, after which they were all granted to Englishmen.

William, earl of Albemarle died possessed of this manor in the 44th year of that reign, holding it of the king *in capite*.

Henry III., in his 47th year restored it to Guy de Chastilian, earl of St. Paul, on whose death it reverted to the crown, where it remained till the reign of Edward I., who granted it to Queen Alianor, his mother, for her life. She died in that reign, when Edward II. committed the custody of this place to Elias de

Tyngewick. It was afterwards granted to Edmund de Woodstock, the king's half brother, made earl of Kent, who died possessed of this estate in the 4th of Edward III. In the reign of Richard III. it was possessed by Lord Stanley, who passed it to John Brooke, lord Cobham, but he never possessed it. In the reign of James I. it was held by Sir Thomas Walsingham, who conveyed the whole, with the manor of Chesilhurst, to Sir Robert Darcy, of Dartford. In the latter family it continued till conveyed by female heirs to those of Rokesley, Milward, and Gouge, when it descended from the latter family to Sir Charles Gould, who, in 1792, took the name of Morgan, and was created a baronet, when he held it as trustee for his nephew, of the name of Van, then in his minority.

The feefarm paid for the manor of Dartford to the crown is £49 1 10½.

The court-leet comprehends all the parish of Dartford, except the liberty of the bishop of Rochester, and Temple's manor, with all the parish of Wilmington.

The MANOR OF TEMPLE, in this parish, anciently called the *manor of Dartford Temple*, was so called from its possessors, the Knights Templars owning lands here in very early times. In the reign of Edward II. the wealth and power of these knights being thought too great, they were accused of the most atrocious crimes, and in every place imprisoned and their lands seized, when the king granted those possessed here to Robert de Kendale, to hold during his pleasure.

These estates remained in the crown till the 17th of Edward II., when they were given by Act of Parliament to the prior and brethren of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, commonly called the Knights Hospitallers, who were possessed of a manor and lands in Dartford, long before the dissolution of the Templars. In the 14th of Edward II., Thomas le Archer, prior of St. John's, granted in ferm to one of the family of the Cobham's, a term in the manor of Dartford, the interest in which descended down to John, son and heir of Henry de Cobham, who, under Edward III., obtained a charter of *free warren* in all his demesne lands within his manor of Dartford.

This manor was afterwards held by Sir Maurice Dennis, of St. John's, when, becoming vested in the crown, James I. granted it to the earl of Salisbury, in exchange for Theobalds.

THE PRIORY OF DARTFORD was founded by Edward III., who placed therein twenty-four sisters and six brethren, to whom were given 200 marks, viz. ten each. His patent of endowment bears date in his 46th year, wherein he granted to Maud, prioress of the monastery of St. Mary and St. Margaret's the virgins in Dartford, manors in the counties of Suffolk, Surrey, Wilts, Hereford, London, Wales, with numerous others in this county.

Richard II., in his 8th year, gave to this monastery lands in Norfolk for the support of a chaplain.

Ladies of several noble families were prioresses and nuns in this house; Bridget, fourth daughter of Edward IV. was a nun here; and, at the time of the suppression, the prioress and the several nuns were of the best and most ancient families in this county.

This institution, at the suppression, was valued at £380 9 0½, per annum, as estimated by Dugdale; or £400 8s. according to Speed. Joane Fane, or Vane, the prioress at the period of the surrender, had a pension of £66 13 4 per annum, and twenty-three nuns' annual allowances, from forty shillings to £6 per annum each.

Henry VIII. kept the site of the priory as a house fit for the residence of himself and successors, where they remained till Edward VI. granted to the Lady Anne, of Cleves, his manor of Dartford to hold for her natural life, at the yearly rent of £18 16 1½.

Lady Anne of Cleves died possessed of these premises in the 4th of Queen Mary, after which they were granted to the house of the Friars Preachers, at Langley, in Hertfordshire, (then restored,) but on their fresh dissolution, in the 1st of Elizabeth, they once more reverted to the crown, when the queen kept them in her own hands, where they remained till James I., in his 4th year, granted the manor of Dartford to Robert Cecil, earl of Salisbury, who conveyed these manors, site, and other premises, to Sir Robert Darcy, after which they descended to Sir Charles Morgan.

On Sir Edward Darcy taking possession of this house, he gave it the name of Dartford place, by which, and that of the Place house, it has been called ever since. The remains of this priory are built of brick of the time of Henry VII. They con-

Drawn by Fussell. Engraved by Mottram.

NORTH VIEW OF BELVIDERE NEAR ERITH.

sist of a large gatehouse, and a south wing adjoining, now used as the farm-house. It appears to have been a vast pile of building, and doubtless a very noble edifice, from the number of foundations, cross walls, drains, &c. that have been discovered, which, with their environs, occupied a vast extent of land. On the north-east side were large gardens and orchards, encompassed by a stone wall, still entire, and more than half a mile round, enclosing a piece of land of twelve acres extent, which has been occupied by a public gardener. It lies about a quarter of a mile northward of the west end of the town of Dartford, the ancient road leading to the same was by turning out of the main London road, the street thence called the *Water-side*, leading to it.

The manor of Portbridge was, in the reign of Edward III., in possession of the family of the Bicknore's.

In a rental of the lands belonging to the knights of St. John, in this parish, taken in the reign of Henry VIII., the manor of Portbrege, otherwise called Bykenores, was held by the prioress of Dartford, at the yearly rental of ten shillings.

Sir John Spilman, under Elizabeth, had a grant of this manor, who erected a papermill, probably the first of the kind in England, for making writing paper, and died possessed of it in 1607. He was jeweller to the queen, and in the 31st of that reign had a licence for the sole gathering of rags for ten years, for the manufacture of such paper.

He is said to have conveyed from abroad two lime trees, unseen before in these parts, which he planted, and from their texture proved worthy the observation of the curious. They were cut down some years back.

Since the above period this place has become noted for the numerous papermills established there, as well as other manufactories possessed by persons of large property, whose dwellings and pleasure grounds are sufficient proofs of the improved taste and opulence of the inhabitants of this pleasing town and its vicinage.

The manor of Bignors, after several intermediate owners, passed into the name of Coote, at which time there was a large manufactory of gunpowder carried on. In 1778 it was possessed by Mr. Thomas Edsall, who, becoming a bankrupt, the estate

was sold to Messrs. Pigou and Andrews, who continued to carry on the above manufacture to a very large extent.

CHARLES is a manor in this parish, formerly possessed by a family bearing that name, one of whom was admiral of the fleet. In the reign of Richard II., Sir John de Brembre became the proprietor, on whose death this manor was granted to Adam Bamme, esq. of London. It then passed through the names of Rothele, D'Aeth, and Goldsmith, who sold it to George Tooke, esq. of Bere court, near Dover; whence it descended to Gerard Noel Edwards, esq., knight of the shire for the county of Rutland.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

The manor house is now a small mean cottage, standing a short distance northward from the present mansion house, which is a handsome ancient building of the period of James I. situated on the north side of the High street; it has, however, been much disfigured by the lower part being converted into shops.

HORSEMAN'S PLACE is a mansion of some note in this parish, situated southward of the High street in Lowfield, near the small stream called the Cranford. In the reign of Edward II. this house and estate were owned by one Thomas de Luda, between whom, and Thomas, abbot of Lesnes, there was a composition touching the passage of a current of water here. It afterwards passed to the family of the Shardelow's, whence it devolved by marriage to Thomas Horseman, who, most probably, built the mansion, and called it after his own name. His widow surviving, bequeathed it to her kinsman, Thomas Brune, or Brown, from whom it passed to one Blague, and thence to John Byer, who rebuilt the mansion and gatehouse.

By his will, in 1572, he founded four almshouses, and devised the manor called Horsemans, or Brunes place, to his eldest son in tail general, with remainder to his second son Nicholas. This estate afterwards went by bequest to John Twisleton, in which family it remained down to Colonel Twisleton, afterwards Lord Say and Sele, who conveyed the same to Thomas Williams and Thomas Smith. From the latter it was alienated to Richard Leigh, who died possessed of it in 1772, when he left one son, who died intestate, and was succeeded in this inheritance by his son, Richard Leigh, of Wilmington.

Baldwins is a seat and reputed manor, situated at the extremity of the parish, at the south-west corner of Dartford heath. It was anciently in the possession of Sir John Baude, descended from a honourable family, of whom it acquired the name of Baudiwins, when it afterwards passed to the abbot and convent of Lesnes. In the reign of Henry VIII., on the suppression of this abbey, the revenues were granted to Cardinal Wolsey, on whose disgrace it was forfeited to the king, who granted it in exchange for other lands to Eton college, near Windsor, to which establishment the inheritance of this seat and manor now belong.

About half a mile from the town of Dartford lies the hamlet of Stanham, anciently called Stoneham, formerly part of the possessions of the priory of Dartford. After the suppression, the interest of the lease was vested in William Thynne, esq., who, in the reign of Henry VIII., had a further term granted therein.

Queen Elizabeth, in her 11th year, granted to Hugh Cartwright, her messuage, and a house called the Dayern house, in Stoneham, at the rent of £20 14s. It subsequently passed to Mr. Smith, and the two Mr. Bucks, who conveyed it by sale to Mr. Mark Fielder, of Dartford, which latter, in 1782, gave it by will to his nephew, Mr. Mark Callow.

John de Fremingham gave his manor at Dartford, at the Hythe, to the value of 100 shillings, to the wardens of Rochester bridge.

Sir John Stewart, and Matilda his wife, resided in their mansion at Dartford in the reign of Henry VI., who granted to his eldest son, and his heirs, license to make use of his swan mark, *(a little ragged staff,)* which mark he assumed by inheritance after the death of his father, Sir John Stewart.

Henry VI., in his 31st year, granted license to John Bamburgh, William Rothele, Roger Jones, and Thomas Booth, to found an *almshouse* in honour of the Holy Trinity, to be an hospital for five poor persons, &c. This hospital appears afterwards to have been used as a spital house for lepers, the street where it was built being still called Spital street.

There was an *anchorite*, or *hermit*, at Dartford, in the reign of Henry III. In the 3d of Henry V., Henry lord Scrope left to this anchorite by will 13s. 4d. These anchorites were a kind

of religious beggars, who took their stations at the end of bridges, and other frequented thoroughfares, to implore the benevolence of passengers. There was one of this kind in almost every city and town in England, to whom charitable people generally left some remembrance in their wills.

This parish is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *deanery* of Dartford and *diocese* of Rochester. The church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, stands at the east end of the town, being a large handsome building, consisting of two aisles and two chancels. In 1793 the church was repaired and beautified, by the parishioners, at the expense of £1200. The pavement within the altar rails, and the painting and gilding, were executed at the charge of Charles Manning, gent. in 1702.

The churchyard formerly surrounded it, but a portion on the southern side was given to the public to render the road more commodious for passengers.

Among the monuments and inscriptions in this church are the following; near the altar a tomb for Sir John Spilman, with his effigy in armour, and that of his lady kneeling, with an inscription in German text, and his arms on the summit. On the south side of the chancel is an altar tomb for Clement Petit, esq. of Joyes, in this parish, and a gravestone for Richard Martyn, and his wife. Another for Arthur Bostocke, gent., and numerous memorials for the families of the Molyngton's, the Burgess's, the Tooke's, the Fielder's, and the Tasker's, with a mural monument for John Twisleton, esq., and many of that family, as also for the names of Beer, Rothele, Burlton, Manning, D'Aeth, Rounds, Woodin, Poulter, Dalling, and Chambers, all of this parish. There are also numerous mementoes of respectable inhabitants of this populous town and parish, as well in the church as the cemetery, but they are by far too numerous for insertion.

There were two chantries founded for divine service in this parish, that of St. Edmund the Martyr, and St. Mary called Stampit. The former stood in the upper burial-ground of this parish, being a cemetery to it, under which building was a charnel-house. This chapel was suppressed, and soon fell to ruins, but the cemetery was granted to the parish as a burial-ground, and so continues. The latter *chantry* of the Blessed

Virgin was subject to the official of the diocese, and was founded by Thomas de Dartford, or Att Stampitt, vicar in 1338, for one chaplain to celebrate divine offices daily for the health of his soul.

By the *commission of Inquiry* this was found to be a discharged living in the king's books, of the certified value of £45 5 10½, the yearly tenths being £1 17 1½. The vicarage was in 1736 augmented by Queen Anne's Bounty, as well as a donation of £100 from the Rev. Mr. Charles Chambers, vicar of Dartford.

In 1821 there were 609 dwellings in the parish of Dartford; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 1815, females 1778, making a total of 3593 souls.

WILMINGTON lies the next adjoining parish southward from Dartford, called in the *Textus Roffensis*, *Wilmentuna*, and *Wilmintune*. This parish is situated both for pleasure and health, the quantity of cherry grounds which encircle the village contributing greatly to the beauty of its appearance; and, in the spring, when the trees are in blossom, the whole appears a continued range of garden. Though containing much hill and dale, it is in general high ground, and offers many pleasant prospects over the neighbouring country; the soil is dry, inclined to gravel, mixed with loam. It contains about 1500 acres of land, extending eastward beyond the road from Dartford and Farningham, to the river Darent; thence the ground rises westward up the hill, on the summit of which stands the church. Contiguous is a *handsome house*, once part of the possessions of Dartford priory, which at the dissolution was granted by Henry VIII. to John Byer, or Beer, of Horseman's place, in Dartford. From him it descended in the same line as that estate, to John Twisleton, esq., who devised the whole of his property to his nephew, Thomas Cockshut, when the latter changed his name to Twisleton, and sold this estate to Mr. Thomas Williams, of Dartford, who alienated it to Mr. John Tasker, of the same place, and he made great improvements and additions to the mansion, where he afterwards resided.

At a small distance westward is the village, wherein stands the vicarage, a neat house, built by the vicar, Mr. Down, who resided there. A little south of the village is a hamlet, called Barn End, containing a good house, called Mount Pleasant, built by Mr. Stephen Perry, of London, who in 1736 bequeathed it, together with a capital farm, called Shere hall, to his nephew Stephen Perry, esq. In 1765 his son, John Perry, succeeded to this inheritance, when, passing through the names of Austin and Ford, it rested with Duncan Campbell, esq. who greatly improved this seat.

About three quarters of a mile from the church, adjoining Dartford heath, is Wilmington common, whereon stands a good house, built, in 1743, by Edward Bathurst, esq. of this parish, at which period he pulled down the ancient seat belonging to this estate, situated at Barn End, the ruins of which remained there. From the latter name it passed to that of Austen, whose son possessed the same.

In Joyden's wood, on the western side of this parish, is an hollow way, formerly a high road, which has not been made use of for more than 140 years. In the contiguous woods there have been found quantities of bricks and other materials, probably the remains of depopulation, occasioned by the wars between the houses of York and Lancaster.

This place is not mentioned by name in the survey of Domesday, but stands included in the account of the ancient demesne of the king's manor of Dartford, whereof it was an appendage, that manor extending over the whole parish of Wilmington at this time, as may be seen more at length in the account of that manor.

The manor of Grandison, or Wilmington, was the inheritance of the illustrious family of the Grandison's, written, for brevity, in old deeds and writings, Grauntson. Otho de Grandison possessed this manor under Henry III. and Edward I. He left several sons and daughters; of the latter, Agnes married Sir John Norwood, whom she entitled to this estate; after which, Richard Fitz-Alan, earl of Arundel, held it, and died possessed of it under Richard II. Richard Nevill, the great earl of Warwick, afterwards owned it under Henry VI.; he was slain at the battle of Barnet, in 1471, when this manor was granted by Edward IV. to Sir William Stanley, where it

remained till his attainder, in the 10th year of that reign, when he was beheaded, for engaging in the conspiracy of Perkin Warbeck. Henry VIII. granted this estate to Sir Thomas Howard, afterwards earl of Surrey, and the Lady Anne, his wife, daughter of Edward IV., to hold in tail male, by knight's service. She dying without issue, it reverted to the crown, and was soon after given to Margaret Plantagenet, wife of Sir Richard, son of Sir Jeffrey Pole, K.G. That lady, in her own right, countess of Salisbury, was brutally beheaded, and left, by Sir Richard Pole, four sons, Henry, afterwards lord Montague, who was attainted and beheaded; Jeffry Arthur, who was also attainted; and Reginald, subsequently archbishop of Canterbury.

Henry VIII. granted this manor to Sir Jeffrey Pole, her second son, who alienated it to Sir Thomas Moile; and he, in the 2d of Elizabeth, settled this manor in marriage with his youngest daughter, Amy, on Sir Thomas Kempe, of Oilantigh. It was soon after sold to Sir Christopher Heron, who passed it away to George Cole, when it was conveyed to Sir Thomas Smith, of Sutton at Hone; and his great grandson dying in 1695, left a widow and two sons, to whom this manor descended in gavelkind. It was afterwards sold, and passed through the names of Lethuillier, Browne, Webb, and eventually became the property of John Mumford, esq. of Sutton at Hone.

THE MANOR OF ROWEHILL, or RUEHILL, was, under Edward I., held by the family of the Gyve's, as eminent for their illustrious extraction, as for the largeness of their estates.

Anselm de Gyve had a charter of *free warren* for his lands in Wilmington under Edward I., and his great grandson, John, sold it to Simon Franceys, of London, who was lord mayor under Edward III., and died possessed of it in that reign.

The next possessor was Nicholas, son of Sir John de Brembre, who was attainted, and lost both his life and estate. Richard II., in his 14th year, granted this manor to Adam Bamme, in whose posterity it remained several generations, till one of his descendants sold it to a Brett; and his successor alienated it to Sir Thomas Smith; after which it had the same owners as the manor of Grandison, resting in John Mumford, esq. of Sutton at Hone. There is a large wood on the south side of Dartford heath, called Rowehill wood, part of the demesne of this manor,

where the court lodge once stood, but being burnt down, has not been rebuilt.

The manor of Stanhill, otherwise Wardendale, anciently belonged to the priory of St. Andrew, Rochester; and at the dissolution, was granted by Henry VIII. to his new erected dean and chapter of Rochester. Henry VIII., in his 36th year, granted to John Wroth, lands in Westbrockall, in Wilmington, near Dartford heath, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service; they were afterwards sold to one Humphrey, and thence, under Edward VI., to Sir Maurice Denys, on whose death they were possessed by his widow; they are now wholly unknown, both as to situation and owner.

Wilmington is in the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Dartford. The church, dedicated to St. Michael, consists of one aisle and a chancel, with a spire steeple at the west end, which standing on the knoll of the hill, is a conspicuous object for many miles round.

There are memorials in this church for the following names: the Bunce's; the Bathurst's; the Godfrey's; the Stanley's; Sir Edward Hulse; Edward Fowke; as well as vaults for the families of the Hobbe's; the Perry's; and the Neve's; with several decayed tombs for that of the Langley's.

By the commission of Inquiry, in 1650, it was returned that Wilmington was a vicarage, having eleven acres of glebe land, worth, if the tithes were duly paid, £28 per annum. It is valued in the king's books at £6 17 6, the yearly tenths being 13s. 9d.

In 1821 there were 124 dwellings in the parish of Wilmington; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 335, females 318, making a total of 653 souls.

THE HUNDRED OF LITTLE AND LESNES

Lies northward from that of Ruxley. In Domesday it is called the hundred of *Litelai*, which name it bore in the reign of Edward I., the king being then lord of the same. In the 20th of Edward III., on levying 40s. on every knight's fee, this hundred answered for one knight's fee and a half.

In the reign of Henry IV., we find it called by its present name of *Little* and *Lesnes*, the latter being in fact no more than the name of one of the two *half hundreds* into which it was divided. Two constables have jurisdiction over this district.

It contains the parishes of East Wickham, Plumsted, Erith, and Crayford, and the churches of those parishes.

East Wickham is so named to distinguish it from West Wickham near Bromley, and Wickham, from its contiguity to the great high road. *Wic* signifying in Saxon a street or way, and *ham*, a dwelling.

It is a small parish, containing about 700 acres of land, the southern extremity reaches to the high London road, where the soil is level, and contains some tolerable fertile land; but the western and northern parts are poor and barren, being gravelly, with a stiff clay, the former part much covered with coppice wood. The village, through which the road leads to Plumsted and Woolwich, is situated in the centre of the parish, about a mile from the high London road. At the north-east part is the court lodge, an old-fashioned timbered building; and a little farther, the church, near which was an ancient seat, now pulled down, built about the period of Elizabeth, probably by Sir John Oliffe, soon after his purchasing this manor. By the marriage of his daughter, it passed into the possession of the family of the Leigh's, of Addington; Sir Thomas resided here till his death, but his son, Sir Francis, removing to Tring, in Hertfordshire, this house remained uninhabited. Near Borstall heath, is a modern-built house, then the property of

Thomas Jones, esq., comptroller of the laboratory at Woolwich, at whose decease, in 1766, it descended to his son, Richard Steyner Jones, whose son afterwards succeeded to the possession.

The HAMLET OF WELLING is situated at the southeastern boundary of the parish, on the high road from London to Dover, which divides this district from that of Bexley, the houses on the southern side being in that parish. At the east end of Welling, within this parish, is a good house, the residence of John Denham, esq.; he died in 1760, leaving an only daughter, who carried her interest, in marriage, to Thomas Cookes, esq., by whom it was sold to Mr. Benjamin Winkworth, who died in 1796, and his widow afterwards resided there.

THE MANOR OF EAST WICKHAM was anciently part of the possessions of the family of the Burnell's, of great antiquity in England. Sir Robert Burnell died in the 20th of William the Conqueror, A.D. 1087. Of this family was Robert Burnell, who possessed this manor in the reign of Edward I. In 1275 he was bishop of Bath and Wells, and a man of great celebrity, being first treasurer, and then chancellor of England, and always of the privy council. He died possessed of this manor, and was succeeded by his nephew, Philip. It then passed by marriage into the family of the Handloe's, and thence to Nicholas de la Pole, by entail, who had possession granted under the name of Burnell, which he had assumed.

He died possessed of this manor under Richard II., leaving Sir Hugh his son and heir. In the 10th year of the same reign he was made governor of Bridgenorth castle, and being reputed one of the king's favorites, was, with others, banished the court; but, the king regaining power, he was recompensed for his losses, and on King Richard being deposed, became so popular, as to be one of the lords sent to the Tower of London to receive his resignation of the crown. He afterwards stood so high with Henry IV. as to have several important trusts conferred on him, and died in the 8th of Henry V., having had one son, who died during his life.

The issue male becoming thus extinct, this manor, by virtue of entail made by John Handloe, and Maud his wife, devolved to her right heirs, by her first husband, Lovell, of whom Sir William Lovell, lord Lovel, became entitled to the same. It

then descended by female heirs and marriage to John lord Lovell and Holand, whose grandson William succeeded to the possession of this manor.

He died holding it in the 33d of Henry VI., leaving a son John, who inherited from his mother the title of Lord Morley. In that family it remained till the death of Viscount Lovell, without issue, who, being the last in the entail, the estate became vested in the crown till the 5th of Henry VIII., when it was granted by letters patent, in special tail, to Thomas Howard, duke of Norfolk, to hold by the service of one knight's fee. In that illustrious family it remained in a long descent, till the 4th of Elizabeth, when it was conveyed to John Olyffe, afterwards knighted, who died possessed of it in 1577. It then passed from that family in marriage to Sir Olyffe Leigh, from whom it ultimately descended to John Bennet, and Mary his wife, and the Rev. Wooley Leigh Bennet, rector of Finmore, in Oxon, who died here in 1790, when his son, John Leigh Bennet, succeeded to this manor.

East Wickham is within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Rochester, and *deanery* of Dartford. The church, dedicated to St. Michael, is an ancient structure, consisting of a nave and chancel, with a small turret at the west end. The font is octagonal, and ornamented with quarterfoils.

Among the monuments are the following; for the Barton's, the Leigh's, and the Walsham's; also for John de Bladicdone, and a gravestone, with effigies, for William Payn.

This church was always accounted as a chapel to Plumsted, and as such is not in charge in the king's books.

In 1821 there were fifty-two dwellings in the parish of East Wickham; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 159, females 158, making a total of 317 souls.

Plumsted lies the next parish northward from East Wickham, on the banks of the river Thames, which constitute its northern boundary.

It contains about 2300 acres, and lies so much exposed to

the damp and foggy air of the marshes, that it is far from healthy. The high road to Woolwich passes through the district, separating the marshes from the uplands, on which road stands the village of Plumsted, having Plumsted Park house nearly in the centre, and the court lodge, church, and parsonage to the eastward. A little farther is the hamlet of Bostall, or Boston, and the heath of the same name, and southward of the village is Plumsted common. The upland, or southern part of the parish is very hilly, and much covered with coppice woods, consisting of 400 acres, reaching up to the high Dover road, and comprehending within its bounds the whole northern side of Shooter's hill. The southern upland in this parish is very poor, being chiefly gravel, or a stiff clay; the lower part is more fertile, in which are included ninety acres, used for market gardens, whereof fifty are for the growth of peas, and about 100 acres of orchard chiefly planted with cherries. The more northern part, consisting of the marsh land, which is bounded northward by the Thames, contains nearly 1000 acres, stretching a mile and a half across either way; the marshes are very rich and fertile, about 100 acres being annually ploughed up that bear great crops of corn.

King Edgar, in 960, gave four plough lands, called Plumstede, to the monastery of St. Austin, near Canterbury, afterwards given by Godwyn, earl of Kent, to his fourth son Tostan.

Edward the Confessor restored them to the monastery, but on his death Tostan again took possession of the land. He was slain in rebellion against his brother Harold, who seized on this among the rest of his estates. After the battle of Hastings, William the Conqueror gave it to Odo, bishop of Bayeux, soon after which a moiety was restored to the abbot of St. Austin, and Odo soon after granted the other moiety of the manor of Plumsted to the abbot and convent. These moities are, consequently, entered separately in Domesday record; the former under the title of the land of the church of St. Augustine, and the latter under that of the lands of the bishop of Bayeux.

Reginald, son of Gervase de Cornhill, released to the abbot and convent all claim in this manor. In 1273 Nicholas de Spina was elected abbot of this monastery.

Lora de Ros, lady of Horton, in 1287 obtained of Thomas,

abbot, and the convent of St. Augustine's, all her right to two carucates of land, and fifty acres of wood, in the manor of Plumsted.

By a taxation of this monastery, in the reign of Richard II., that of Plumsted was valued at £69 10 6. This manor, together with the church of Plumsted, and the chapel of Wickham annexed, remained part of the possessions of the monastery till its dissolution, when this noble abbey was surrendered to the king. The manor and church of Plumsted was soon after granted in exchange for other estates to Sir Edward Boughton, of Burwash court, in this parish, and the following year he procured the disgavelment of his lands. He bore for his arms, *Gules, on a fess, argent, three fleurs de lis, azure, between three goats' heads, erased of the third, attired, or.* By a descendant of that family, the manor and church of Plumsted were in 1685 sold to John Michel, esq. of Richmond, Surrey, one of whose descendants devised this estate to the provost and scholars of Queen's college, Oxford, and their successors, for ever. A court-leet and court-baron is held for this property.

Burwash Court, generally called *Burrish place,* is a seat in this parish, lying at the western boundary, almost adjoining Woolwich. It was formerly possessed by the noble family of Burghersh, which gave name to this property. Bartholomew de Burghersh died possessed of it in the reign of Edward III., and his eldest son passed away this manor to Sir Walter de Pavely, K.G., in whom it remained till the reign of Richard II., when it was alienated to a Vaux, of Northamptonshire. It so continued till the reign of Henry VI., when the family of the Green's possessed it, and after having passed to the names of Wilson, Crisp, and Pattison, it ultimately became by marriage the property of John Martin, esq., who resided there.

Borstall, or *Bostall,* is a hamlet in the eastern part of this parish, always reputed as a manor. In the reign of Henry VII. it was in the possession of John Cutte, gent. of Essex, who sold it to the abbot and convent of St. Peter's, Westminster, where it continued till the dissolution. By Henry VIII. it was granted to Jane Wilkinson to hold *in capite,* who alienated it to Thomas Bowes, and he sold it to one Barnes, who possessed this manor, as well as Plumsted. In regard to the latter manor, in the 15th of Edward III., John de Pulteneye died possessed

of it, leaving William de Pulteneye his heir. In the 4th of Henry IV., Reginald de Cobham, senior, died owner of this estate, when it was conveyed to the hospital of St. Thomas, ot Acon, in Cheapside, after which it was surrendered to Henry VIII. It next became vested in the Clothworkers' company, part of whose revenues it remained. A portion of these lands is still called by the name of Westminster, as having formerly belonged to that abbey.

SUFFOLK PLACE FARM is an estate situated also in the hamlet of Bostoll, and derived its name from the noble possessor Charles Brandon, duke of Suffolk, in the reign of Henry VIII., who alienated it to Sir Martin Bowes. From the latter name it went by a female heir to one Barnes, thence to an Altham, and was afterwards sold in 1650 to Sir Robert Jocelyn, by whom it was conveyed in 1665 to the Company for the Propagation of the Gospel at Boston, in New England, where it became vested.

In the 11th of Henry VI. the abbot and convent of Lesnes exchanged their tenement called Tang court, in Chesilhurst, for an estate in this parish, called Fulham's place.

Among the MSS. of Roger Dodsworth, in the Bodleian library, Oxford, is a charter of William de Ros, concerning the gift of the *Hermitage*, situated here, to the canons of St. Mary Ouvrys, in Southwark.

There is an estate in this parish called PLUMSTED PARK FARM, consisting of a good house, situated in the centre of the village of Plumsted, with a large tract of land, called the Park, belonging thereto. In 1765, it was the property of Mr. Derbyshire, who alienated it to Mr. Curtis, of London, by whom it was sold to William Coleman, esq.; and he afterwards disposed of it to Mr. Richard Bowser, of Southwark.

PLUMSTED is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Dartford. The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, stands at the east end of the village; it formerly consisted of a nave, two side aisles, and a chancel; but in the early part of the last century, the whole was in so dilapidated a state, that the rooffing fell, in which condition it continued for nearly twenty years, when it was at length repaired. As to the south aisle, which now constitutes the whole of the church, forming the nave and chancel, it was

restored, through the care and industry of Mr. John Gossage, an inhabitant of the parish, who died in 1672, and was there interred; the south wall of the church appears very ancient, having narrow lancet windows. The ruined wall of the north aisle yet remains.

In this church are monuments commemorative of Peter Denham, esq., whose ancestor was a great benefactor to this edifice; also for Mr. John Gossage; and the families of the Nugent's, the Parker's, the Barnet's; and an elegant tomb for John Lidgberd, esq. of Shooters hill; in the churchyard are also many tombs for the officers of the artillery and their families. In the 15th of Edward I., the church of Plumsted was valued at forty-four marks, and the vicarage at ten marks.

The vicarage of Plumsted is estimated in the king's books at £6 18 4, the yearly tenths being 13s. 10d. By the commission of Inquiry, in 1650, it was returned that Plumsted and East Wickham were a parsonage of impropriation, belonging to the heirs of one Poole, deceased; that the vicarage was presentative with cure of souls, and worth £140 per annum.

In 1821 there were 461 dwellings in the parish of Plumsted; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 1140, females 1246, making a total of 2386 souls.

ERITH lies the next parish eastward, having the river Thames for its northern boundary. This place was formerly called *Lesnes*, otherwise *Erith;* the former name was, as Mr. Lambarde thinks, misspelt by the Normans, instead of the Saxon word *Leswes*, which signifies pastures; but we rather conjecture it to be derived from the old British word *lese, pastures*, and *nese, a promontory* or *cape;* both names being suited to the different parts of this parish, the former to the western, and the latter to the eastern portion. It was written in old records, *Hliesnes;* in the *Textus Roffensis, Lisna;* and in Domesday, *Loisnes*.

The name of Erith seems to be derived from the Saxon word *ærre hythe*, that is, the *old haven*.

THIS PARISH, which is about three miles across either way, is nearly one half marsh land, bounded on the north by the

river Thames. The western part seems particularly to have retained the name of Lesnes, as the eastern part, about the town and haven, did that of Erith. In the upland or southern district, the soil is very light and barren, having several heaths, particularly that called Northumberland, where it joins Crayford, part being in that parish; while on the north side stands Mr. Wheatley's mansion. Westward, is West heath, near which is the hamlet of Bedenwell, and the parsonage farm; north from which, is Leason, commonly so called for Lesnes heath; and again, northward, near the marshes, the hamlets of Chalkside and Pickerday. On the east side of Lesnes heath is the seat of lord Eardley; and on the road leading from the heath, towards the church, a cottage, erected by John Maddocks, esq., late of Vale Mascall, in North Cray, who gave it the name of *Holly hill*. It is a neat and elegant box, and commands a delightful view of the Thames and the county of Essex. About half a mile thence is the church, standing by itself; and in the western part of the parish, a large wood, formerly called West wood, but for many years styled the Abbey wood, having belonged to the abbey of Lesnes, the ruins of which still remain. In the wood there are vast quantities of chesnuts, one of the many instances of that tree having been the indigenous growth of England.

At the north-east extremity of the parish lies the town of Erith, consisting of one small street, leading to the water-side, where it lies open to the haven formed by the Thames.

At the entrance of the village from Crayford stands the old manor-house; and near the Thames, opposite this town, the Indiamen, in their passage up the river, frequently come to an anchor.

Two fairs are kept yearly at Erith, on Ascension and Michaelmas days.

There exists an establishment here of the customs of a surveyor, and two watermen.

The marshes in this parish, comprise the northern part, containing about 1550 acres, the whole of which are sometimes ploughed for corn, and in general, more than 1000 acres yearly, which constantly bear the most exuberant crops.

Towards the latter end of the reign of Henry VI. there were four very large fish taken in the river; one of which was called

mors marina; another, the swordfish; and the remaining two supposed to be whales.

In the time of the Saxons, this parish was possessed by Azor de Lesneie, who, as appears from Domesday record, had the liberties of *sac* and *soc* for all his lands in the lath of Sutton.

William the Conqueror gave Lesnes to Odo bishop of Bayeux, on whose disgrace it was granted to Richard de Lucy, justice of England, who possessed it under Henry II. Among other acts of piety, he founded the abbey of Westwood, in this parish, which he richly endowed, and taking upon himself the habit of a monk, died, and was interred there. The remaining part of his possessions, styled the manor of *Lesnes* or *Erith*, descended to his posterity; he had two sons, Geoffry and Herbert; and two daughters, Maud and Roesie.

Geoffrey de Lucy died during the life of his father, leaving Richard his heir, who dying without issue, this manor became vested in Roesie, married to Fulbert de Dover.

Their son and heir, Robert, died before the 6th of King John, and his mother surviving, she, in the 9th year of that reign, made an agreement with the king for the possession of the whole barony, descended to her by the death of Richard and Herbert de Lucy, without issue. This manor then descended in a right line, by marriage and heirship, to the earl of Athol, who was hanged on London bridge; when the property devolved to the crown, and was given by the king, the same year, to Margaret, queen of England. With her it did not long remain, as Edward II. granted the estate to Bartholomew de Badlesmere, who being executed for treason, the king gave this manor to David de Strabolgie, son of John earl of Athol, who died in the 20th of Edward II.; on which it reverted to the crown.

Giles, son of Bartholomew de Badlesmere, whose process and judgment had been reversed, became possessed of his father's lands and manors, in the 2d of Edward III.; and he left four sisters his coheirs, when this manor became the property of Elizabeth, wife of William de Bohun, earl of Northampton; after which the estate descended to Roger, her only surviving son, by Edmund Mortimer, her first husband.

The great family of the Mortimer's derived their descent from Roger de Mortimer, founder of the abbey of St. Victor, in Nor-

mandy; and Ralph, his son, accompanied William duke of Normandy hither, being one of his chief commanders.

The vast possessions of this family raised the descendants to great power, and inflamed their ambition, which, combined with their alliance to the blood royal, caused infinite troubles in the kingdom, as well as attainders and executions. After many struggles, in the course of which the Mortimer's frequently made the throne totter, the posterity of that race, in the person of Edward IV., attained possession of the throne of England. A direct descendant of Ralph Mortimer was the great, but ambitious, Roger Mortimer of Wigmore, who became so odious to Edward III. that the king caused him to be apprehended at the castle of Nottingham, where he then was with the queen, and being found guilty of consenting to the murder of Edward II., he was condemned and executed in the 4th year of that reign.

This great, but unhappy man, left four sons and several daughters; Edmund, the eldest, did not succeed to the title of earl of March, as his father's attainder had not been reversed in his time. Roger, his son, being restored in blood, had restitution of his lands, among which was the manor of Erythe. He died at Rouera, in Burgundy, possessed of the manors of Swanscombe and Erith. Edmund Mortimer, earl of March, his eldest son, married Philippa, daughter and heir to Lionel duke of Clarence, third son of Edward III., after which marriage his descendants claimed the crown as their just inheritance. He died possessed of this manor, whose son, Edmund Mortimer, was the last earl of March of this family. He died in the 3d of Henry VI., without issue, when Richard duke of York was found to be his next heir, being son of Anne, his sister, wife of Richard earl of Cambridge, only son of Richard de Coningsborough, earl of Cambridge, second son of Edward de Langley, duke of York, earl of Cambridge, and lord of Tindall, who was the fifth son of Edward III., being by his father and mother's side descended from that king. On the death of his uncle, Edward duke of York, in the 4th of Henry V., who died without issue, his nephew Richard was found to be his heir, and became entitled to the manor of Erith in the 8th of that reign, though not then of age.

Becoming subsequently king of England, this manor continued in the crown till Henry VIII. granted it to Elizabeth,

relict of George earl of Shrewsbury, by the description of the manor of Erith, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service; she died in the 10th year of that reign, and lies interred under a sumptuous tomb, in this church. Before her death, this manor seems to have been settled on her only daughter, Anne, wife of William Herbert, earl of Pembroke, who died without issue, when she survived him, and dying in the 31st of Elizabeth, was interred in Erith church, when this manor descended to her only son, by her first husband, Peter Compton.

In this family the manor descended down to Sir Thomas Compton, who conveyed the property to Mr. Lodowick; and he soon after sold it to Nicholas Vanacker, esq., a gentleman of foreign extraction. It then passed from this family to that of the Hedge's, one of whom devised this manor to John Wheatley, esq., who died in 1748, leaving his widow surviving. He was succeeded by his son, William Wheatley, who, in 1769, possessed the manor of Erith, and resided there, in a new mansion which he had caused to be erected on Northumberland heath; he was married, and left several children. He bore for his arms, quarterly, first and fourth, *parted per fess, a pale counterchanged, three lions rampant;* second and third, *parted per fess wavy, three bucks' heads caboshed.*

A court-leet is held for this manor.

Bedenwell is a small hamlet, formerly reputed a manor, and was once the inheritance of the family of the Burford's; in the reign of Edward III., it was held of David de Strabolgie, son of John earl of Athol; Rose de Burford possessed this property at her death, in the 3d year of the above prince; and her successor, James de Burford, obtained a charter of *free warren* for his lands at Bedenwell.

After this family became extinct, which occurred previous to the end of the reign of Richard II., it passed into the possession of the Draper's, the last of whom, John Draper, dying without issue male, his daughter carried it in marriage to William Killem, who changed his name to Draper. However, in the reign of Charles I., this property was divided into several portions, which destroyed all its right to the title of a manor; since which it has been again partitioned into many more separate divisions and tenements, in which state it now remains.

Hering Hill is a place in this parish, anciently the residence of a family called Abell, which bore for its arms, *a saltier engrailed;* of whom, Sir John Abell was among the Kentish knights who attended Edward I. to the siege of Carlaverock. He had, by Margaret his wife, two sons; John, one of the barons of the Exchequer in the 5th of Edward II.; and Walter, who owned Footes Cray.

In the reign of Henry IV., Edward Abell was in the commission of the peace for the county, and his descendant, John, died possessed of Hering hill in the reign of Elizabeth, whose son, Samuel, was the last of this family. In the 10th of James I. he passed away this estate by sale to Mr. William Draper, of Draper's place, in this parish; and his descendant, Charles, died possessed of Hering hill in the reign of George I., whose widow owned it in 1725, after which it passed through the names of Johnson, Smith, and Benson, in which latter it remained.

Belvidere house stands on the eastern side of Leason heath, about half a mile west of Erith church. This beautiful seat was originally erected by George Hayley, esq., who passed it by sale to Charles Calvert, lord Baltimore; and he died here in 1751. Soon after that period, this seat was sold by his devisee to Sampson Gideon, esq., who resided at Belvidere, which he greatly improved, and dying in 1762, left one son, Sampson, and two daughters. The former succeeded to this seat, having been created a baronet during the life of his father, and in 1789 was made lord Eardley of the kingdom of Ireland; he bears for his arms, *Parted per chevron, vert and or in chief, a rose, of the second between two fleurs de lis, argent in base, a lion rampant, regardant azure.* Lord Eardley rebuilt this seat, which he made his principal residence.

This house is situated on the brow of a hill, and commands a vast extent of prospect over the Thames, and many miles beyond; the river and navigation adding greatly to the beauty of the scenery. The grounds and woods are judiciously laid out, and have many beautiful walks; while the collection of pictures, though not numerous, are valuable, containing none but original specimens, by the most eminent masters, some of them very fine: the Alchemist of Teniers; Noah's Ark, by Brueghel; St. Catherine, from the pencil of Leonardo de

Vinci; an Old Woman, by Rembrandt; a Courtezan, the production of Georgione; Snyders with his wife and child, by Reubens; the Marriage in Canaan of Paul Veronese; the Genealogy of Christ, by Albert Durer; the Conception and Flight into Egypt, the work of Murillo; a Landscape, by Claude; and three others, by Poussin, are the most prominent features in this collection.

According to Lambard, Erith was anciently incorporated; it now carries on a considerable trade in corn and wood.

LESNES ABBEY, in Erith parish, was founded in the year 1178, for canons, regular, of the order of St. Augustine, by Richard de Lucy, in the reign of Henry II. It was suppressed in 1524, and, in 1630, became the property of Sir John Hippesly, knight. He, according to the account transmitted by Weever, in his Funeral Monuments, appointed workmen to dig amongst the rubbish of the decayed fabric of the church, which had lain a long time buried in ruins, when the workmen discovered a monument, being the full proportion of a man in his coat armour, his sword hanging at his side by a broad belt, upon which the flower-de-luce was engraven in many places, being, as that writer imagined, a rebus or device of the Lucie's. This representation lay upon a flat marble stone, over a trough or coffin of smooth hewn ashlar stone; while, in a sheet of lead, fit for the dimensions of a body, were the remains of an "ashie dry carcase," whole and undisjointed, and upon the head some hair; they also found other statues of men, and one of a woman, in her attire and habiliments.

This monastery, first called, from its situation, THE ABBEY OF WEST WOOD, and afterwards changed to that of Lesnes, with the church belonging thereto, was dedicated to Sts. Mary and Thomas the Martyr, for so archbishop Becket was called, within eight years after his death. Godfrey de Lucy, a near relation of the founder, proved a great benefactor to this house in the reign of Edward I.; the abbot of Lesnes had *free warren* granted to him and his successors, for his lands here, at Tong, and at Acolt.

Henry VIII. granted to Ralph Sadler, gent., the late monastery of St. Thomas the Martyr, of Lesnes, and the manors of Lesnes and Fant, with all appurtenances. In the 32d of Henry VIII., Sir Ralph Sadler alienated both the above manors

to Henry Cooke, who died in the 5th of Edward VI., possessed of these manors; and his son, Edmund Cooke, succeeded, who was of Lesnes abbey and Mount Mascall, in this county. He died possessed of both in 1619, and his eldest son, Lambert, conveyed this property and the site of the abbey to Sir John Leman, alderman of London, who soon after sold them to Sir John Hippesley. By the latter they were alienated to Sir Thomas Gainsford, of Crowherst, in Surrey, who, in the reign of Charles I., sold them to Mr. Haws, of London; when he dying without issue, settled them by will, for ever, on the mayor and commonalty of London, as governors of the hospitals of Bridewell, Christ church, and St. Thomas, in whose possession they continue.

ERITH, otherwise LESNES, is in the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Dartford. The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, contains three aisles and two chancels, with a spire steeple at the west end. In this edifice are many monuments and inscriptions, commemorative of the following families and names: for Sir John Griffith, of Erith; Anne Harman; John Aylmer; Roger Sencler; effigies in brass for Edward Hawte and his wife; also for Sir Richard Walden. A noble tomb of white marble for the countess of Shrewsbury; a mural monument for Francis Vanacker, esq., lord of the manor of Erith; a gravestone for Margaret, daughter of John Wheatley; another for William Hedges, also lord of this manor; and on a gravestone, at the entrance to the south aisle, a brass plate, with the following inscription in black letter:

"Ellin Atte Coke Gist Icy,
Dieu De sa Alme Eit Mercy."

It appears, by the Escheat Rolls, that Peter atte Coke possessed lands in Lesnes; and in another record, he is called Peter de Weslingburg, or Peter atte Coke. In this church also lies buried Anne Countess of Pembroke, who died in 1589, and Edward Abell, of Hering hill, who departed this life in the reign of Henry IV.

In this structure, under the reign of King John, commissioners were constituted to treat with Richard earl of Clare, on behalf of the discontented barons, touching a peace between

Drawn by J. Pussell

Engraved by H. Adlard

ERITH CHURCH.

KENT.

the king and his nobles, for which purpose safe conduct was granted to them.

By the *commission of Inquiry*, in 1650, it appeared that Erith was a parsonage, there being in the parish a vicarage presentative, with cure of souls, worth £50 per annum, including the glebe land, which was valued at £10.

John Weever, author of the Funeral Monuments, appears to have been possessed of this rectory at the latter end of the reign of Elizabeth. In the 15th of Edward I., the church of Lesnes was valued at fifty marks, the vicarage at eight, and the temporalities of the priory of the Holy Trinity, in Lesnes, at £4 4 4.

The vicarage of Erith is valued in the king's books at £9 12 6, the yearly tenths being 19s. 3d. It is now estimated at £200 per annum.

In 1821 there were 223 dwellings in the parish of Erith; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 711, females 652, making a total of 1363 souls.

Crayford lies the next parish southeastward from Erith, having the Thames and that parish for its northern boundary. It appears to have been called, soon after the arrival of the Saxons in this island, by the name of *Creccan ford*, that is, the *ford or passage over the water*, then called *Crecca* now *Cray*. In 960 it was named *Erhede*, or *Eard;* and at the Conquest, *Eard*, or Crayford, by which appellation it continued to be described in all ancient writings, to the time of Henry VIII.

This parish is three miles in extent from north to south, and nearly two from east to west; the air is by no means healthy, especially that part near the marshes. The soil in the upland district is much inclined to gravel and sand, and the lands are but thin and poor, particularly towards Northumberland and Bexley heaths, near which are two parcels of coppice wood, being the only ones in this parish. The lower parts, nearer the river, and in the marshes, are very fertile; of the latter, about 500 acres are never ploughed. The high London road crosses the southern part of this parish, wherein stands the village, commonly called Crayford street, where the ground rises to the

upland or western part of the parish; the roads there branch off, one to Bexley heath, a second to Woolwich, (near which is the church, May place, and Newbery,) and another to Erith, near which is the parsonage. Farther on are the two hamlets of Perry street and North End; and about three quarters of a mile distant from the former, is Howbury farm.

CRAYFORD STREET is narrow and ill built, which had formerly the high London road running through it, but a new cut has been made, which, leaving the street, again joins the old road at the east end of the street, close to the bridge, which has been new built for that purpose. At the east end of the street, near the river, stood a large handsome seat, apparently of the period of Queen Elizabeth, called, in ancient deeds, the *Mansion house of Crayford,* and afterwards, the *Old Place house.* It was formerly part of the estate of Sir Cloudesley Shovel, whose daughter entitled her husband, John Blackwood, to its possession, and on his death, in 1777, his son, Shovel Blackwood, succeeded to it. It was for many years used for carrying on a linen manufactory established here; after which it was let on a long lease to an eminent calico printer and whitster, who pulled it down and converted the materials into workshops for his manufactory. An annual fair is held here, on the 8th of September.

The river Cray takes its course through the marshes in this parish, and after having received a small spring which rises at Wantsum farm, branches into two currents, both of which cross the high London road, as does a third small portion of water out of it, granted by the commissioners of sewers in 1633.

Two of these streams having supplied two large manufactories for calico printing, and again received the third stream into them, unite about half a mile below the spot where this river turns an iron mill, anciently made use of for making plates for armour; when having supplied the whiting grounds, it performs several small windings, and joins Dartford creek, about a mile below that town, whence it flows in one united stream into the Thames.

In 457, Hengist, the first Saxon king of Kent, meeting the Britons at Creccanford, gave them battle, slew four of their chief commanders, and 4000 men, when after that sanguinary

defeat, the natives entirely abandoned this county, and fled with great dismay towards London.

There are still apparent on the heaths and fields, near Crayford, many artificial holes or caves in the earth, some being ten, fifteen, and others twenty fathoms deep. At the mouth, and thence downward, they are narrow, like the tunnel of a chimney, or passage of a well, but at the bottom, large, and of great extent, many having several rooms, one within the other, strongly vaulted, and supported by pillars of chalk. It has been conjectured that they were excavated, as secret hiding-places, by our Saxon ancestors, for their wives, children, and goods, as well in times of civil wars, as foreign invasions.

Tacitus, treating of the manners of the old Germans, ancestors of the Saxons, says, they were accustomed to dig certain caves underground, in order that when an enemy came and spoiled all that was abroad, such things as were thus hidden lay unknown, thus deceiving those who sought after them.

If such have not been found in other places, it must be imputed to the soil, chalk being alone suited to this subterranean species of workmanship. Many beasts have been precipitated into these pits, and the hunters continually miss their dogs, which have fallen in. Mr. Lambarde also states that, in his time, a thin noble personage, in following his hawk, fell into one of these pits, at the imminent danger of his life, the aperture being at least twelve fathoms deep.

The Roman road is plainly seen on Bexley heath directing its course south-south-east, and so on towards Crayford, which adds some strength to the conjectures of those who place the first station thereon from London, anciently called *Noviomagus*, at or about Crayford. Among the latter writers, are Somner, Burton, Bishop Stillingfleet; and of later times, Dr. Thorpe; and although there have not been any foundations, tiles, urns, or other marks of antiquity, found about this place, in confirmation of its having been a Roman station, yet it has one corroborating circumstance of no small force, namely, the similitude of its present appellation.

The manor of Crayford is at this time called Crayford, otherwise Newbery, which last denomination signifies in English exactly the same as *Noviomagus* in Latin, viz. *the new fortress or station.* However, as to placing this station here, some

authors have made two principal objections, first, the improbability of the marshes, at and about Deptford, being easily passed in the time of the Romans, which, if not the case, would direct the course of the road more southward, towards Keston; and secondly, that the Watling Street road, whereon this station is supposed to have been, traversed the middle of the county; whereas, that by Crayford, to Rochester and Canterbury, directs its course near the northern boundary. To obviate this objection, Mr. Robert Talbot, who wrote a comment on the Itinerary of Antoninus, states, that the Romans had two sorts of highways, one, though farthest about, through places better inhabited, more level, and altogether fitter for conducting an army, the other more direct and compendious; of which latter description, most probably, was this Roman road, through Crayford.

This place, in the time of the Saxons, was possessed by one Elfege, who by will gave a third part of his estates in Erhide to Christ church, in Canterbury; notwithstanding which, Leofsune, who had married his nephew's widow, entered on them; they were, however, recovered from him in a trial held here by the archbishop for that purpose. After that period, on the division of the property, Erhede seems to have been part of the share allotted to Christ church, and remained in the hands of the archbishop of Canterbury at the survey of Domesday, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in that record.

At the latter end of the reign of Richard I., and under King John, the MANOR OF EARDE, otherwise CRAYFORD, was held of the archbishop by Adam de Port, great grandson of Hugh de Port, a baron, in the reign of the Conqueror, who was possessed of Basing, in Hampshire, which he constituted the head of his barony.

Adam de Port married Mabel, grandchild and heir to Roger de St. John, after which, his descendants dropping the surname of Port, assumed that of St. John. John de St. John, of Basing, his great grandson, died in the 30th of Edward I. possessed of the manor of Earde. John, his son and heir, died in the 12th of Edward II., leaving a son, Hugh de St. John, deceased in the 11th of Edward III., possessed of sixteen knights' fees in Kent, among which was this manor and advowson.

It afterwards passed in the female line to the name of De Burghersh, and thence to the family of the Poyning's; from which it devolved to Sir Thomas Lesley, who alienated it to — Gorfyn, esq., and he sold it to Henry VIII., where it remained till the reign of Philip and Mary. It was then granted to Thomas White, to hold *in capite;* and Elizabeth, in her 7th year, granted it to Henry Partrich, who, in the same reign, conveyed it to Henry Apvlton, of Marshal's court, in this county. In 1694, the property was sold to Sir Cloudesley Shovel, together with the capital mansion of May place; he bore for his arms, *Gules, a chevron ermine between three crescents argent, and a fleur de lis in the base.* Sir Cloudesley was shipwrecked in his voyage from Toulon, October, 1707, leaving two daughters, Elizabeth and Anne. The former married, first, Sir Robert Marsham, afterwards lord Romney; and secondly, lord Carmichael, afterwards earl of Hindford. Anne married first, Robert Mansel, son of Thomas lord Mansel, and afterwards, John Blackwood, esq. of Charlton, in this county; and on the death of lady Shovel, these manors and estates became vested in Elizabeth, then widow of Robert lord Romney, and Anne, the wife of John Blackwood, esq., in undivided moieties, as coheirs of their father; soon after which, on a division of their inheritance, the manor of Newbery, May place, and Elham, were allotted to John lorn Carmichael; while Howbery, Marshal's place, the iron mills, and other lands, became the property of John Blackwood, esq.

In 1737, the earl of Hindford joined with his lady in the sale of this manor, the mansion of May place, and Elham, to Nathaniel Elwick, esq., who settled them on his daughter and heir, Elizabeth, on her marriage, in 1745, with Miles Barne, esq., of Sotterley, in Suffolk. She died in 1747, during the life of her father, leaving one son, Miles, and a daughter, Elizabeth Elwick Barne. The only surviving offspring of Miles Barne and Elizabeth died in the 8th of September, 1825, aged seventy-nine years, and bequeathed the estates which he inherited from his mother to his youngest brother, of the half blood. The Rev. Thomas Barne, M.A. F.S.A., late rector of Sotterley, in Suffolk, a resident of Crayford, in the new manor house, nearly rebuilt the mansion after the model of an Italian villa, under the direction of Mr. Hakewill, the architect. Mr.

Barne has let May place to John Fossett Burnet, esq. of Vauxhall, in Surrey, who has made it his residence. This family is descended in a direct line from two gentlemen, named Sir George Barnes, a father and son, one of whom was lord mayor of London in 1552, the other in 1586.

A court-baron is held for the manor of Newbery, which extends over the upper or western portions of the parish.

Marshall's court is a property in this parish, which, although now nearly unknown, was formerly of some note, having, in early times, been the seat of a family which gave name to this estate. One of that line, John Marshal, was a good benefactor to this church and the poor of the parish; when it passed to the Apylton's, from which name it went to Mrs. Mary Towse, of London, by whose daughter they were conveyed by sale to Sir Cloudesley Shovel; upon which, the manor of Marshal's court was allotted to Anne, his youngest daughter, married to John Blackwood, esq. His son, Shovel Blackwood, esq., in 1777, possessed Marshal's court, and continued possessor of the site of this ancient seat, which has for many years been pulled down.

Howbery is a manor in the north-west part of this parish, near the marshes, the mansion of which has still a moat remaining round it. This manor is described in ancient deeds by the name of Hoobery, otherwise Little Hoo. In the reign of William the Conqueror it was in the possession of Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the title of whose lands it was entered in Domesday record.

It then became the property of the family of the Auberville's; from which it passed to that of the Norwood's. In the reign of Henry IV., it was in the possession of Nicholas Carew and John Cornwallis, of London, who joined in the sale of the estate to Richard Bryan; and he, in the 1st of Henry VI., passed it away to Roger Apylton. It then went to John Cowley; and, in the reign of Henry VIII., to John Judde; a female heir of whom carried it in marriage to the family of the Fane's, whence it passed by sale to one Draper. In 1694, his heirs sold it to Sir Cloudesley Shovel, by whose youngest daughter, Anne, it was carried in marriage to John Blackwood; whose son, Shovel Blackwood, succeeded to the property, who alienated it, with the Iron Mills farm, to Harman Berens, esq.

of Kenington, whose son afterwards possessed both these estates.

ELHAM, a property in this parish, though now sunk into obscurity, (the house having been long since pulled down,) was once the seat of a family which thence derived its name, and for many descents was esteemed of the rank of gentlemen, having borne for its arms, *Argent, a soord in bend, dexter sable, the point upwards.* Henry Elham died in the reign of Henry VI., and lies buried in this church; John Elham, in the reign of Henry VII., alienated the estate to Henry Harman; from whom it passed to Robert Draper, and his heirs sold it to Sir Cloudesley Shovel. The daughter of the latter, named Elizabeth, carried it in marriage to lord Hindford, who sold the estate to Nathaniel Elwick, esq.; since which this manor has descended to Miles Barne, esq. of Sotterley, in Suffolk, previously mentioned.

There was a family, of the name of Marler, possessed of a house and lands in this parish, where it resided for many generations. Anthony Marler was of Crayford in the reign of Elizabeth; the property was afterwards sold, A.D. 1636, to Edmund Cotton.

CRAYFORD is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and being a *peculiar*, is within the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church, standing near the village, is dedicated to St. Paulinus, and consists of two aisles and a chancel, with a square tower at the west end. The altarpiece was given by Sir Cloudesley Shovel.

Among other monuments and inscriptions are the following: for the Cooke's, of Rotherhithe, and the Brown's; a mural tomb for Mrs. Elizabeth Barne; and in the great chancel, memorials for the Crokatt's, the Newman's, and the Short's, as well as the Gardiner's, the Marler's, and the Draper's. In the south chancel is a beautiful monument, in form of an obelisk, of black marble, under a canopy of white marble, for Elizabeth, widow of Sir Cloudesley Shovel, whose remains are deposited in the vault beneath, belonging to the Blackwood's. This edifice also contained monuments for the Abell's; the Goldsmith's; the Ellam's; the Harman's; the Apylton's; the Pix's; and others, of note, whose tombs were destroyed by a fire that burnt down part of the fabric.

In the 15th of Edward I., the church of Earde, or Crayford,

was valued at forty marks; it was afterwards estimated in the king's books at £35 13 4, the yearly tenths being £3 11 4.

By the *commission of Enquiry*, it was returned, that Crayford was a parsonage worth £140 per annum.

The parsonage house is a handsome building, with convenient offices of all kinds, pleasantly situated about a quarter of a mile westward from the church.

In 1821 there were 315 dwellings in the parish of Crayford; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 919, females 947, making a total of 1866 souls.

THE HUNDRED OF

ROKESLEY, OTHERWISE RUXLEY,

Lies northeastward from that of Bromley and Beckenham; in Domesday survey it is called the hundred of *Helmestres*, which name it had lost before the reign of Edward I., in the 7th year of which prince it bore its present appellation, the king and archbishop being then lords of the district.

It contains the parishes of Chesilhurst in part, Hayes, West Wickham, Keston, Farnborough, Downe, Cowdham, Nockholt, Chelsfield, Orpington, St. Mary Cray, Paul's Cray, Foot's Cray, North Cray, with Ruxley, and Bexley; and the churches of those parishes. Also part of the parishes of Hever and Chidingstone, viz. so much as is within the borough of Linckhill, the churches of which parishes are within another hundred. It is divided into the two half hundreds of Upper and Lower Ruxley, being under the jurisdiction of two constables.

Chesilhurst lies the next adjoining parish eastward from Bromley; a small portion, near Foot's Cray, being in the hundred of Blackheath. It was called by the Saxons *Ciselhyrst*, as appears by the charters in the *Textus Roffensis*, a name expressive of its situation among the woods.

Chesilhurst is one of the most pleasant and healthy parishes situated in the environs of the metropolis, and contains a number of elegant villas, with gardens and plantations, beautifully laid out, being for the most part inhabited by persons of fortune and distinction. The village, with the church and parsonage, stand adjoining the south side of the common, which is nearly in the centre of the parish. Farther eastward, is Place green; and beyond, Scadbury, and the mansion of Frognall; while, at the southern extremity, is Town place. The parish, towards the west and north, is much covered by coppice

wood, to the amount of 500 acres; the soil, in general, thin and gravelly.

This place is not mentioned in Domesday; perhaps it might have been considered, in some measure, as an appendage to the manor of Dartford, with which it appears early to have been connected, and may, therefore, be included under the description of that manor.

Edward II., in his 15th year, by consent of Parliament, granted to Edmund de Woodstock, the ferm of the royalty of Dartford, the fee of which was confirmed to him by Edward III. That the manor of Chesilhurst was included in the above grant, appears by the inquisition taken after the earl's death, wherein, among the appurtenances of the manor of Dartford, the rents of assize in Chesilhurst are specified.

His sons, Edward and John Plantagenet, earls of Kent, dying without issue, Joan, their sister, called the *Fair Maid of Kent*, became their heir, then wife of Sir Thomas Holand, and afterwards married to Edward the Black Prince. She died possessed of this estate in the 9th of Richard II., as did her son by her first husband, Lord Holand; after which it was successively possessed by his two sons, Thomas duke of Surrey, and Edmund earl of Kent, who both died without issue. On the demise of the latter, his four sisters became his heirs, and on the division of his estates, and the manor of Dartford, the rents of assize in Chesilhurst were allotted to Joan his fourth sister, duchess of York, who appears to have died without issue in the 12th of Henry VI., possessed of this manor. After that period Thomas duke of Clarence possessed it in right of Margaret, one of the other sisters; and John, earl of Somerset, her son by her first husband, became her heir, and died without male issue possessed of this estate, when his brother Edmund, marquis of Dorset, was found to be his next heir, and possessed of this estate. He was afterwards created duke of Somerset, and slain in the first battle of St. Albans, in the 33d of Henry VI., when his eldest son, Henry duke of Somerset, by Alianor daughter and coheir of Richard Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, was his heir. He, however, having been attainted in Parliament, all his possessions devolved to the crown, when Chesilhurst was soon afterwards granted to Richard Nevill, earl of Warwick, who was slain at the battle of Barnet in 1471. He left issue

two daughters, who were both married into the royal family; Isabel, to George duke of Clarence, brother of Edward IV., and Anne, first to Edward prince of Wales, son of Henry VI., and secondly to Richard duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard III.

On the earl's death these estates were given to his two daughters, when Isabel, wife of the duke of Clarence, possessed Chesilhurst. The latter prince was afterwards drowned in a butt of malmsey, and Isabel, his wife, died of poison; he had issue the earl of Warwick, who never enjoyed any of this patrimony.

It then became the property of Lord Stanley for life, but Henry VII., in his 3d year, being desirous of possessing the whole of the estates of the great earl of Warwick, recalled the old countess from her retirement in the north, and restored to her (both her daughters being dead,) all her late husband's possessions, with power for her to alienate any part, not with the intent that she should enjoy the same, but transfer them to the king, which she did the same year by a special feoffment, and a fine, whereby the whole estates, consisting of 114 manors, among which was that of Dartford, with the rents of assize in Chesilhurst, were passed to the king and his heirs for ever. This estate, however, continued in possession of Lord Stanley, who had been created earl of Derby, and died in the 19th of that reign possessed of this manor, leaving his second wife surviving, who by his will peaceably enjoyed all the manors and lands assigned for her jointure, by the Act passed in the 1st of Henry VII.

Among others she possessed this manor, which was from that time frequently called *Richmond's lands*, as will be seen hereafter; she died in the 1st of Henry VIII. holding the estate, the reversion of which being vested in the crown, the king became possessed of it, where it remained till Queen Elizabeth, in her 26th year, demised it by the name of the *manor of Dartford Chesilhurst*, to Edmund Walsingham, esq. for a term of twenty-one years. In the 40th of that reign Sir Thomas Walsingham had a farther demise of these premises, then called Richmond's lands, for the same term, under the like rent and covenants.

King James I., in his 8th year, granted to George and

Thomas Whitmore, esqrs. of London, the manors of Dartford and Chesilhurst, with their appurtenances, lately demised to Edmund Walsingham; and they, in the 9th year of that reign, conveyed these premises to Sir Thomas Walsingham, of Scadbury, in this parish.

Sir Thomas Walsingham afterwards sold all the above premises to Sir Robert Darcy, excepting the manor of Chesilhurst, since which this manor has continued in the possession of the same owners as that of Scadbury, being, with that manor, *now* the property of the Right Hon. lord viscount Sidney.

SCADBURY is a manor lying on the eastern side of the parish; it was a place of some note in former times, and had owners of the same name residing there, one of whom, John de Scadbury, dying without issue male, in the reign of Edward III., his daughter carried it in marriage to Osmund de Walsingham, descended from the knightly family of the Walsingham's, of Norfolk, who bore for their arms, *Paly of argent and sable, a fess gules.* He seated himself at Scadbury, where his descendants flourished for many generations, in the rank of those gentlemen who were of the first eminence in the county, and the race having been knighted for six successive descents is no small proof of their respectability. Sir James Walsingham was sheriff in the 12th of Henry VII., and left two sons, Edmund and William, which latter married Joyce, daughter of Sir Edward Dering, by whom he had that famous statesman, Sir Francis Walsingham, who died in 1590, having been twice married, and left by his second wife an only daughter. Sir Edward, above mentioned, succeeded his father in this estate of Scadbury, who procured the disgavellment of his lands in the reign of Edward VI., and died in 1549; and his grandson, Sir Thomas Walsingham, succeeding to this estate in 1611, purchased the manor of Chesilhurst, as already mentioned. His son, Sir Thomas, however, alienated both the properties about the time of the Restoration, to Sir Richard Betenson, of Layer de la Haye, in Essex. In that family it continued till Albina, coheir of Sir Edward Betenson, married the Hon. Thomas Townsend, to whom he soon after sold the entire fee of the manors of Chesilhurst and Scadbury; for, in 1760 they became vested in the Hon. Thomas Townsend, afterwards viscount Sydney. The ancient mansion of Scadbury has been many

Drawn by Geo. Shepherd.

Engraved by R. Roffe.

FROGNAL.

KENT.

years in ruins, and there now only remains a farm-house, erected from part of the building.

The manor of Chesilhurst, with Scadbury, has a court-leet and court-baron. Sir Nicholas Bacon, in the reign of Elizabeth, was born in this parish, and most probably at the mansion of Scadbury.

FROGNALL is a seat in this parish, the proper name being FROGPOOL, though it is in general called Frognall. In the reign of Henry III. this place was owned by a family named Barker, and thence passed into the possession of the Cressels. John de Cressels was a great benefactor to this church in the reign of Edward III., and bore for his arms, *sable, a fess argent, between three chaplets, or;* and a descendant of the same name, in the reign of Henry V., is registered among those *Qui Portabant arma Antiqua,* who bore an ancient family coat of arms.

It continued for many descents in that family, and was, about the latter end of the reign of Henry VIII., conveyed by sale to one Dyneley, whose descendant, in the reign of James I., passed away his interest therein to Mr. William Watkins, who greatly improved the mansion, and at the latter end of the reign of Charles I. alienated it to Philip Warwick, esq , a faithful adherent of that prince during his troubles. This estate then passed by sale to the Tryon's, and, being thrown into chancery, was sold, under a decree of that court, to the Hon. Thomas Townsend, owner of Chesilhurst and Scadbury manors, who afterwards resided here, and died possessed of it in 1780. He was succeeded by his eldest son Thomas, who in 1783 was made baron Sydney, of Chesilhurst, and subsequently created a viscount. His lordship left three sons, besides the viscount, and two daughters, and bore for his arms, *quarterly first and fourth Townshend; azure, a chevron ermine, between three escallop shells argent; second and third, Vere; in the centre, a crescent for difference. Crest, on a wreath, a buck tripping, sable, attired, proper, and charged on the shoulder with a crescent or. Supporters, on the dexter side, a lion or; collared, chained, and charged on the shoulder with an escallop shell argent.*

CAMDEN PLACE is a seat standing on the west side of Chesilhurst common, rendered famous by two of its illustrious owners, its late lord, who thence derived his title, and its for-

mer possessor, from whom it takes its name, having been the great and learned William Camden, one of the most erudite writers, diligent antiquaries, and impartial historians, that his own age or this country has produced. He was descended, on his mother's side, from the ancient family of the Curwen's of Wirkington, in Cumberland, descended from Gospatrick earl of Northumberland, as he himself informs us in his Britannia. William Camden was second and then head master of Westminster school, and in 1597 created clarencieux king at arms, having been known and admired by the greatest ornaments of the literary world, for those works which so justly entitled him to the great character he obtained, and still preserves. He retired to this seat in 1609, and finding himself gradually declining with infirmities and old age, no longer delayed his intention of founding the History Lecture at Oxford; he did not, however, transmit the gift to that university until the month of May 1622. He died of a severe fit of illness, Nov. 9, 1623, in the seventy-third of his age, at this mansion of Camden. His body being removed to his residence in London, was carried thence to Westminster abbey, in great pomp, the whole college of heralds attending in their proper costumes, numbers of the nobility and persons of the first distinction accompanying the solemnity, when he was buried in the south aisle, near the monuments of Casaubon and Chaucer. He bore for his arms, *Or, a fess engrailed sable, between six cross crosslets, fitchee of the second.*

This seat, after the death of Camden, most probably passed to the possession of several intermediate owners, when it was held by Harry Spencer, esq., who conveyed it by sale to one Morrice, as he did to Charles Pratt, esq., afterwards created baron Camden of this place, and in 1786 farther advanced to the dignity of Earl Camden and Viscount Bayham. He died in 1794, leaving one son, John Jeffries viscount Bayham, who succeeded him in title and estate, and four daughters. He bears for his arms, *Sable, on a fess, between three elephants' heads, erased, argent, as many mullets of the first. His crest, an elephant's head erased argent. Supporters, on the dexter side, a griffin, sable beak, and fore legs, gules; on the sinister, a lion rampant or, each gorged with a collar argent, charged with three mullets sable.*

Drawn by Geo. Shepherd.

Engraved by H. Adlard.

CHISELHURST CHURCH.

In the 11th of Henry VI. the abbot and convent of Lesnes, in this county, were possessed of TONG COURT, in Chesilhurst, now called TOWN COURT FARM, which was then exchanged for a tenement in Plumsted, called Fulham place. Thomas Walsingham possessed Tong court in the 7th of Edward IV., Constance his widow succeeded to the inheritance, and her second husband, John Greene, held it during the minority of James Walsingham, her son. How it passed from the name of Walsingham we do not find, but it afterwards went to the Hodsoll's, at which time it bore the reputation of a manor. In that family it continued to Edward Hodsoll, esq. of St. Mary Cray, who died possessed of it in 1794, and was succeeded by his son of the same name, who died about a month after, unmarried, upon which the property came to his sister, Mary Matilda Hodsoll.

Some distance westward from Frognall is an old seat, for some generations in the possession of the family of the Farrington's. Thomas Farrington, esq. resided there, and dying in 1694, was succeeded by his son Thomas, who was a lieutenant-general in the army, and died in 1712, leaving this seat to his son, Thomas Farrington, who, at his death without issue, in 1758, bequeathed it by will to his sister's son, the Hon. lord Robert Bertie. He resided there, and much improved both the mansion and adjoining grounds, when he died in 1782, without issue, after which it became by entail the property of Charles Townshend, esq. only surviving brother of lord viscount Sydney.

CHESILHURST is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and *deanery* of Dartford. The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, consists of two aisles and two chancels, having a spire steeple; which, as well as the roofing, is covered with shingles.

In this church are the following monuments: in the south aisle for the Golding's, the Tindall's, the Owen's, and the Poyntell's; and on the south side a monument for John Rand and his wife. In the great chancel a memorial for Mrs. Lucy and before the altar rails a brass plate, with an inscription for Richard Carmarden, esq., another for Thomas Wigg, esq., and several for the family of the Farrington's. A brass plate for Robert Hicks, a memorial for Francis Fox, with a monument

for the Cunliffe's, and an ancient altar tomb, bearing the effigies of a priest, for Alexander Porter, rector. In the north aisle is a beautiful monument for Lord Thomas Bertie, captain in the royal navy, and an inscription in black letter commemorative of Custume Drylande, wife of John Greene. On the north side, under an arch of alabaster, an altar tomb, of Bethersden marble, for Sir Edmund Walsingham, another for James Walsingham, and Eleanor his wife, many of this family also lying buried in a vault beneath. On the east side is an elegant tomb, with an urn by Rysbrack, for Roger Townshend ; near the above monument, with a vault under, for Sir Richard Betenson, bart., another memento, with a pyramid and inscription for Sir Edward Betenson, of Scadbury, and several more for the family of the Bertie's.

The church of Chesilhurst, in the 15th of Edward I., was valued at ten marks, and in the king's books estimated at £16 3 6½, the yearly tenths being £1 12 4½.

By the *commission of Inquiry*, it was returned that Chesilhurst was a parsonage, sequestered with a house, and nine acres of glebe land, with two tenements, altogether worth £80 per annum.

In 1821 there were 264 dwellings in the parish of Chesilhurst; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow : males 851, females 735, making a total of 1586 souls.

Hayes lies southwestward from Chesilhurst, being formerly written in old deeds, *Hese*.

This parish is but small, the village standing nearly in the centre, with the church on the western side, and about one hundred yards distant is Hayes place. The river Ravensborne flows by the north-east boundary of this parish.

In the southern part is Hayes common, on the edge of which is the ancient site of Baston manor, which claims over the greater part of this parish, subordinate to the manor of Great Orpington, belonging to Sir John Dixon Dyke, bart., of which manor this parish is accounted an appendage; and in the western district lies the reputed manor or farm of Pickhurst. The air is very healthy, the surface forming a valley, running

nearly north and south, with the ground rising gradually on either side, on the west towards Beckenham, and on the east in the direction of Bromley common. The two predominant soils are gravel and clay, though there is some loam and sand.

THE MANOR OF BASTON, mentioned above, was formerly part of the possessions of the Squerie's, a family of eminence in this part of the county, which bore for its arms, *A squirrel brouzing a hazel nut.* One of this line, Sir John de Squerie, was seated at Squerie's court, in Westerham, as early as the reign of Edward III.; and a descendant, Thomas, died in the 17th of Henry VI., possessed of this manor, as well as that adjoining of West Wickham, who left them to his son, John. He dying without issue, in the 4th of Edward IV., his sisters became his coheirs; Margaret, married to Sir William Cromer, of Tunstal; and Dorothy, to Richard Mervin, of Fontels, in Wiltshire, who possessed both these manors. The manor itself, of Baston, was, some time afterwards, sold to other proprietors, though the site and demesne lands remained in the same tract of ownership as the manor of West Wickham, in the families of Heydon and Lennard, when, by the marriage of a female heir of the latter, Mary, daughter of Samuel Lennard, they became together the property of John Farnaby, esq., who possessed both these manors.

THE SITE OF BASTON MANOR, called BASTON COURT, with the demesne lands, after several intermediate owners, went to the name of Luxford; and William Luxford, in 1795, alienated Baston court, and the demesne lands adjoining, to Mr. James Randel; but the rest of the lands, on the opposite side of the common, were by him sold, at the same time, to a different person, who annexed them to another farm.

HAYES PLACE is a seat in this parish, situated about 100 yards from the church, and was once the ancient residence of a branch of the family of the Scott's, of Halden, in this county. Sir Stephen Scott, knight, one of the sons of John Scott, esq. of Halden, who bore for his arms, *Argent, a cross crosslet, sable,* kept his shrievalty for the county at this seat, in 1648, and his eldest son inherited the mansion; in which name it remained till 1757, when it was sold to the Right Hon. William Pitt. It continued in that family down to the great earl of Chatham, when this estate was alienated, in 1785, to James

Bond, esq., who sold it to the Right Hon. George viscount Lewsham, eldest son of the earl of Dartmouth. The Right Hon. William Pitt, the celebrated minister, was born at Hayes place, May 28, 1759, during the residence of his father at this manor.

HAYES is in the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and being a *peculiar*, is in the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, stands about the middle of the village, and consists of one aisle and a chancel, having a tower and pyramid, by no means remarkable for its elegance. In this edifice are the following monuments: in the chancel, on a brass plate, the figure of a man, habited as a priest, for Sir John Heygee; and another, for Sir John Andrew. On a stone, a tomb, commemorative of John Scott, esq., and a memorial for Sir Edward Scott; on another, the arms of a Bradgate impaling Scott; with many more memorials and inscriptions for that family.

In the 15th of Edward I., this church of *Hese* was valued at ten marks; and, by a *commission of Inquiry*, returned that Hayes was a parsonage, having a house and sixteen acres of land, worth £40 per annum. It is a discharged living in the king's books, of the yearly value of £49, the yearly tenths being 13s. 9½d.

In 1821 there were eighty dwellings in the parish of Hayes; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 207, females 222, making a total of 429 souls.

WEST WICKHAM lies the next parish from Hayes, adjoining the county of Surrey; it is so called from its situation, and to distinguish it from two other parishes of the same name in this county, having derived its appellation of Wickham from the Saxon words *Wic*, a street or way, and *ham*, a dwelling.

This parish adjoins Surrey both to the south and west, lying on high ground, and is very hilly. The soil is various, being in some parts chalk, and in others gravel, sand, and clay; the whole thin land, containing about 2500 acres, mostly arable. In the centre of this parish stands the court lodge and church; half a mile north-west, the parsonage; and about midway

between the church and Beckenham, north-west, is the village, having in the middle a house, which, some years ago, was the residence of Sir Thomas Wilson; he alienated it, in 1773, to Charles Haskins, esq., who sold it to Sir Peter Burnell, since created lord Gwydir. At a small distance northward, is another good house, which belonged to Charles Waller, esq.

There is an odd custom, called *Youling*, used about Keston and Wickham, in Rogation week; at which period a number of young men meet, making a most hideous noise, when they run into the orchards, and, encircling each tree, pronounce these words:

"Stand fast root, bear well top;
God send us a YOULING sop;
E'ry twig, apple big;
E'ry bough, apple enow."

For which incantation the confused rabble expect a gratuity in money or drink; but, should they be disappointed, they, with great solemnity, anathematise the owners and trees, with altogether as insignificant a curse. The liberty of the duchy of Lancaster claims over the manor of West Wickham, and the messuage and lands, called Spring park, Old park, Frith's woods, and Chamber's grove, as being within the jurisdiction of the duchy court of Farnborough.

In the time of Edward the Confessor, this place was held of the king by one Godric; William the Conqueror granted it to Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the title of whose lands it was entered in Domesday record.

This manor afterwards passed to the possession of the eminent family of the Huntingfield's, for, in the reign of Edward I., it appears that Peter de Huntingfield was then lord of West Wickham. His son and heir, Sir Walter de Huntingfield, was summoned, as a baron, in Parliament, in the 37th of Edward III.; and before the 42d year of that reign, this family terminated in two female heirs, Joan and Alice, the former of whom married John Copledike, and the latter, Sir John Norwich.

On the division of their inheritance, this manor was allotted to the former, whose husband, John Copledike, assumed the arms of Huntingfield. In the reign of Henry VI., it passed to the name of Squerie's; then to Richard Scrope, who alienated

it to Ambrose Creseacre, who transmitted it by sale to Henry Heydon, esq. of Baconsthorpe, in Norfolk, afterwards knighted, who was the son of John Heydon, in that county. He resided at Baconsthorpe, and purchased 300 marks of land, in yearly rent, of which £100 a year was situated at Wickham, where he built "*that right fair manor place and fair church,*" as Leland calls it, now remaining. By one of his descendants it was sold to John Lennard, esq. of Chevening, who seated himself at Wickham; and he died in 1618, leaving several sons and daughters. This manor was, by a female heir, carried in marriage to John Farnaby, esq., from whom it descended to Sir Charles Farnaby Radcliffe, bart.

This building was erected in the reign of Henry VII. by Sir Henry Heydon, and, although it has undergone considerable alterations, still retains much of its original form and character. The structure is square, built of brick, with an octagonal tower at each corner, which formerly terminated pyramidically above the roof; but now the whole walls of the building are ornamented with embrasures. In the window of the hall are the arms of Sir Henry Heydon and Anne his wife, daughter of Sir Geoffrey Bulleyn; with the arms and quarterings of Hussey, and several other coats.

West Wickham is in the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Dartford. The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, was built, in the reign of Henry VII., by Sir Henry Heydon, patron and lord of the manor of West Wickham; it consists of two aisles and a chancel; and at the west end is a low square tower. The windows of this church contain several remains of stained glass, particularly a representation of a skeleton, in a kneeling posture, with a label issuing from its mouth, intended to represent Sir Henry Heydon, as is evident from a helmet and shield, with his arms lying in front. In the same window are the figures of the Virgin and St. Anne, with some coats of arms. In one of the south windows is the crest of the Hussey's, viz. *a boot with a golden spur;* over which are two hands holding a human heart, with this inscription, "*Cor mobile, Cor mobile.*"

In this church are the following memorials: in the chancel, three stones, with brass plates; another for Sir John Stockton; one also for John Langborne; and in the nave, a memorial for

Elizabeth, wife of William Applebury, of London. The north chancel is solely appropriated to the family of the Lennard's and their descendants, whose arms and quarterings appear in numerous places in this edifice.

In the 15th of Edward I. the church of West Wickham was valued at twenty-five marks, and is estimated in the king's books at £11 10 10, the yearly tenths being £1 3 1. In 1784 this living was of the clear value of £300.

In 1821 there were eighty-six dwellings in the parish of West Wickham; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 290, females 265, making a total of 555 souls.

KESTON is the next parish eastward, anciently written *Chestan*, the sound of the Saxon c being often expressed by the letters CH, having been probably so called, *quasi Chesterton;* that is, the place of the camp, or fortification; but the Britons, pronouncing the c as we do K at this time, it thence assumed its present name of Keston. Some ingenious etymologists have fancied that they have discovered therein something of Cæsar's name, whence they would have it termed *quasi Keesar's Town*, as the Britons always pronounced that name. The liberty of the duchy of Lancaster claims over this parish, as being within the jurisdiction of the duchy court of Farnborough.

KESTON is but a small parish, lying mostly on high ground, the soil generally poor and thin; but in the vallies, especially towards the east, rich and loamy; there is no particular village, but two clusters of houses, which lie at about a mile distant, north and south, the latter built round Leaves green, on the road leading to Westerham. There are several good houses in the parish, which belonged to John Nesbit, esq., Colonel Kirkpatrick, Mr. Yates, and Captain Pocock; but the principal mansion is that of Holwood hill, surrounded by much rough ground, on the west side of which is the ancient Roman camp. Near that spot the river Ravensborne takes its rise on Keston common, at a small distance to the west of the camp, directing its course through this parish, between those of Hayes and Bromley, and so on to Beckenham and Lewisham, when, having received several smaller streams, it passes thence through

the town of Deptford, when it soon after empties itself into the Thames.

The remains of the above-mentioned camp, unquestionably the finest relic of antiquity in these parts, consists of a LARGE AND STRONG FORTIFICATION, of an oblong form, commanding an extensive view on every side; the area is partly enclosed with rampiers, and double ditches of vast height and depth, especially on the south and west sides. Mr. Hasted describes it as being nearly two miles in circumference; but from a more recent examination, that appears to be an exaggerated statement. One side of the innermost *vallum* is, by admeasurement, about 800 paces in length. Vestiges of ancient foundations, together with Roman tiles, and miscellaneous antiquities, referable to that people, have been found, several being now in the possession of Alfred Kempe, esq. of Bromley. Coins of the middle and lower empire have likewise been frequently picked up by those whose curiosity has led them to examine this interesting spot. From the western aperture are the remains of a plain way towards the spring head of the river Ravensbourne, which lies at a very small distance on the north-west, and by which the soldiers were well supplied with water. It has been observed by a very tasteful and judicious writer, that "the hand of time, and the wild graces of nature, have conferred on these ancient bulwarks an appearance of the most romantic description." It may be added, that the vicinity of the metropolis presents few objects of antiquity so grand and curious, and yet so little known or visited.

Some have imagined this was the camp which Julius Cæsar constructed when the Britons gave him the last battle with their united forces, just before he passed the Thames in pursuit of Cassivelaun. If so, it must have had great additions from time to time, to bring it to that state of strength and magnitude which the remains now point out; as it is not probable that Cæsar either had time to cast up such a work, or would have passed over in silence such a stupendous undertaking, when writing his famous Commentaries. Others have supposed this to have been the remains of the *Noviomagus*, the first Roman station from London towards Dover; in support of which they urge, that the ancient Roman road, instead of going through Deptford, as at present, directed its course much more south-

erly, making a circle to avoid the marshes between Lambeth and Deptford, which were then nearly impassable, lying so very low, and the river not being at that time embanked, they were overflowed during springtides. Some writers have conjectured the above station to have been about Bromley, and others as far off as Woodcote and Croydon, in Surrey; but Keston being more northerly, and consequently much nearer the direct line from London, to Rochester and Maidstone, seems a more likely spot than either of the above places, more especially as the number of miles this place is distant from the metropolis very nearly answer those mentioned in the Itinerary of Antoninus, wherein *Noviomagus* is described as the first station, ten miles distant from London. Now, supposing some part of ancient London stood on the southern side of the Thames, as it is said, and that the Romans computed their distance from the extremity of the suburbs, it would not be much, if at all, farther than ten miles distant from London; whereas, its distance to the next station, *Vagniacæ*, whether at Southfleet or Maidstone, will not so well answer, being much less than eighteen miles, the distance marked in the Itinerary from the former, and considerably more from the latter of those places. Many of the learned, among whom are bishop Stillingfleet, Somner, Burton, and others, conjecture, with more probability, that this station of *Noviomagus*, was at, or about Crayford; the grounds for which opinion the reader will find in the description of that place.

Mr. Horsley observes, in his *Britannia Romana*, that the ground within the compass of this fortification is too extensive for a station, even though garrisoned with horse; the largest that he knew not extending a tenth part of this compass. He says it looks more like the *castra æstiva*, or summer quarters, and such he believed it to have been, by which he supposes, with others, that the station could not be far distant.

This camp has been conjectured by many, and with great probability, to have been the place where Aulus Plautius, the prætor, after his fourth action with the Britons, encamped with his forces, while he awaited the arrival of the emperor Claudius, as mentioned by Dion. Indeed, the contiguity of the spot to the Thames, its size, strength, and other circumstances, are inducements that tend to make us conjecture it could hardly

have been formed for any other purpose. There is another small intrenchment not far distant, near West Wickham, cast up by Sir Christopher Heydon, lord of that manor in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, for the purpose of training the country people. There are also many others in this county, which appear to have been camps and intrenchments, made in ancient times, though in reality they will be found of much later date. Among the latter are several constructed by the lord Cobham lord lieutenant of the county in the above reign, in pursuance of orders sent to make trenches in those places where the enemy were likely to land.

KESTON was one of those manors possessed by Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general survey of whose lands they were entered in the record of Domesday. After his disgrace, Gilbert de Magminot became immediate tenant to the crown for this property, and in his descendants Keston remained till, by failure of issue male, it was, by a female heir, carried in marriage to William de Say. In the 20th of Edward III. it was possessed by Sir John de Huntingfield, when this family terminated, as before mentioned, in two female heirs.

In the next reign the property was in the possession of Sir Robert Belknap, who, being attainted, it became escheated to the crown. This manor was soon afterwards, with that of Baston, alienated to the Squeries, of Squeries court, in Westerham; and, after passing through several names, became vested in John Farnaby, esq.

HOLWOOD HOUSE is a seat which takes its name from its situation on the hill so denominated. In 1763 it was the property of Captain Richard Pearch, who settled it in 1709 on his niece, in marriage with Nathaniel Gatton, in special tail. It then passed to Peter Burrell, esq., and thence to one Ross, who passed it to Robert Burrow, and in that family it continued till alienated to the Right Hon. William Pitt, second son of the great earl of Chatham. The fine woods, the variegated grounds, of late years much improved, with the commanding prospects on every side, have ranked this seat, in the opinion of all competent judges, among the finest situations in this part of the kingdom.

KESTON is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and being a *peculiar* of the archbi-

shop, is, as such, within the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church stands on the southern side of Holwood hill, nearly in the middle of the parish, being a small neat building, containing one aisle and a chancel, with a cupola at the west end.

In this church is a memorial for Christopher Clerk, archdeacon of Norwich; an inscription for Alice Kay, and another for Mr. Dunc Colchester. In the great chancel, before the rails, a tomb for Elizabeth, daughter of Francis Lee, gent., and another for Jane, relict of Edward Smith, gent. On the north side a memorial for Mr. Richard Hetherington, and on the south, within the rails, mementoes for Judith and Elizabeth, wives of Captain Richard Pearch, of Holwood hill. In the west window is a shield of arms, being those of the see of Canterbury, empaling *or, on a bend azure, three quarters of the field, between six cross crosslets of the second.* In the reign of Edward I. this church was valued at 100 shillings.

It is a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear value of £40 per annum, the yearly tenths being 13s. It is a rectory, in the patronage of his grace the archbishop of Canterbury.

In 1821 there were fifty dwellings in the parish of Keston; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 114, females 138, making a total of 252 souls.

Farnborough adjoins Keston eastward, called in the *Textus Roffensis, Fearnberga.* It most probably took its name from the natural disposition of the soil to bear *Fearn*, the latter syllable, *berge*, signifying in old English, a little hill, an etymology well suiting the place. This parish lies on high ground, the soil thin and poor. The village is situated on the high road from London to Sevenoak, having the church on the south, while about a mile north-east is Tubbenden. The north-west part of the parish is much covered with coppice woods, among which is a hamlet called Brasted green. An annual fair is held here on the 12th of September.

The liberty of the duchy of Lancaster claims over this parish, the manor of Farnborough having belonged to that duchy from its first erection.

FARNBOROUGH, in the reign of Henry III., appears to have been one of the fees belonging to Simon de Montfort, earl of Leicester, who being slain at the battle of Evesham, in the 49th year of that reign, fighting on the part of the barons, his estates and honours were seized, and given by the king to his second son, Edmund Plantagenet, earl of Lancaster, of whom they were held, under Edward I., by the eminent family of the Grandison's, Otho de Grandison having made this estate his residence. In the 27th year of that reign he died, leaving William his brother his heir, who left three sons; of whom, Peter, the eldest, was a knight banneret, and died without issue under Edward III., leaving his brother, John, bishop of Exeter, his heir. In the 18th of Edward III., Henry earl of Lancaster possessed this manor after the death of his brother, Thomas, who had been beheaded at Pomfret, in the 15th of Edward II.; he had been restored to all his titles, and died in 1345. His son, Henry, succeeded to this manor, during whose life he had been created earl of Derby; when it continued in that royal line till Henry VII., in his 1st year, broke into the entail; and the duchy of Lancaster following the succession of the crown, the property was in the possession of Charles I., at his death, in 1648. The royal estates being then seized by Parliament, the manor of Farnborough, commonly called the Duchy Court of Farnborough, belonging to the duchy of Lancaster, was, in 1652, surveyed.

At the restoration of Charles II., in 1660, this manor again returned to the crown, and continued among its revenues, under the jurisdiction of the duchy court of Lancaster, without any grant being made of the same, till 1766, when the Hon. Thomas Walpole obtained a grant of the property, under the seal of the duchy court, the term of which was renewed in 1787, to James Bond, esq., for thirty-one years; and he passed away his interest to Thomas Cope, esq. of Bexley.

FARNBOROUGH HALL is an estate, which appears to have been held by Simon de Chelsfield of Simon de Montfort, earl of Leicester, in the reign of Henry III.

John Flemming possessed it in the reign of Edward I., whose heirs paid aid for it in the 20th of Edward III., as one knight's fee, in Farnborough. This estate soon afterwards went by purchase to the Petley's; and thence to the Peche's, in the

descendants of which latter it was carried, by a female heir, to John Hart; and in his line it remained till Percival Hart, esq. of Lullingstone, leaving an only daughter, she carried it in marriage to her second husband, Sir Thomas Dyke, bart. of Horeham, in Sussex; and their son, Sir John Dixon Dyke, bart. of Lullingtone, possessed Farnborough hall, and the estates belonging thereto.

TUBBENDEN is an ancient seat in this district, the demesnes of which lie partly in this parish and in that of Orpington. In the 21st of Edward I., it was possessed by owners of the same name, as it appears that Gilbert Saundre, of Orpington, demised several parcels of land to John de Tubbenden, of Ferneborough, and his sons.

After that family became extinct, it passed to the Belknaps, one of whom dying without issue, it went to his four sisters, when Alice marrying Sir William Shelley, he became entitled, by right of his wife, to this estate. He soon after alienated it to one Posier, who sold it to a Dalton, when Anne Dalton carried it in marriage to Mr. Aunsell Beckett, whose son bequeathed it by will to Mr. John Winterborn, of London. He resided at Tubbenden, and died in 1673, it then passed to his grandson, Colonel Brome, who dying in 1747, he was succeeded by his two daughters, one of whom married Mr. John Hammond, of Chatham, who became entitled to Tubbendens, of which he died possessed in 1774, leaving two daughters; one marrying — Browne, esq., and the other James Maxwell, esq.; when the latter, in right of his wife, possessed this manor.

FARNBOROUGH is in the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Dartford. The church, which stands at the south-east end of the village, is dedicated to St. Giles the abbot.

On December 26, 1639, the fabric was rent by a violent storm of wind, which compelled the inhabitants to take it down and rebuild it, as appears by a brief granted for that purpose in the 17th of Charles I.

In this church are the following monuments: in the body, two gravestones for Elizabeth and Francis Wyatt; in the great chancel, memorials for Elizabeth Broome and John Broome, esq; and on the north side of the altar, an elegant mural

monument for T. Broome, esq., with several more for that family.

This church is only a chapel to the adjoining parish of Chelsfield, the rector of which is instituted to the rectory of Chelsfield, with the chapel of Farnborough, annexed.

By the *commission of Inquiry*, in 1650, it was returned that Farnborough had been a chapel of ease to Chelsfield, and was already fitly divided; it had only one acre of land and an old house belonging thereto, the parsonage being, at most, worth only £30 per annum.

In 1821 there were ninety-one dwellings in the parish of Farnborough; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 292, females 261, making a total of 553 souls.

Southwestward from Farnborough lies DOWNE, that takes its name from its elevated situation; the word *Dune*, in Saxon, bearing that signification.

This parish is but small, and lies among the hills, on high ground, the soil poor, consisting of clay, mixed with chalk. It extends beyond Northend and High Elme, almost to the foot of Farnborough hill, on the Sevenoak road, the village standing in the southern part. Petley's place, though now only a farm-house, was formerly one of the seats of the ancient family of that name; their arms, with different quarterings, are still remaining in the windows of the mansion.

Near the church is the dwelling, formerly called TROWMERS, belonging to Mr. Omer; and in the centre of the village, another, called the GREAT HOUSE, which formerly belonged to George Butler, esq., who resided here, and died possessed of the premises in 1783; after which the property was purchased by Dr. John Thomas, bishop of Rochester, who died in 1793, leaving his widow, lady Yates, surviving. Her daughter, by her first husband, married Cholmondeley Dering, esq., who resided there. The church stands on the east side of the village; and about a quarter of a mile southward, is Downe hall; farther than which, there is nothing remarkable in this district.

This parish is within the manor of *Great Orpington*, to which it is an appendage.

THE MANOR OF DOWNE COURT, with its site, in the reigns of Edward I. and II., was the property and residence of Richard de Downe. That family became extinct before the middle of the next reign of Edward III., when the Petle's, of Trowmer, in this parish, became lords of the same, John Petle, esq. of Trowmer, having died possessed of it in the 18th of Richard II. John Petle, ancestor of this family, was settled at Downe in the reign of Henry III., and bore for his arms, *Argent, two bends engrailed, a canton sable*, in which family this manor descended till the reign of Henry VIII., when John Petle left four daughters; of whom, Agnes, the eldest, married John Manning, esq. of Downe, who became possessed of it in her right. His descendant, in the reign of James I., alienated this manor to one Palmer, whose son, in 1662, sold it to a Glover; whose daughter marrying James Gladhill Vernon, esq., he possessed this estate.

The seat itself, however, was by his son, Henry Manning, separated from the manor, and sold to Sir Francis Carew, of Beddington, in Surrey, who alienated it to Mr. Ellis, of London; from whom it went, in the reign of Charles I., to Col. Richard Sandys, third son of Sir Edwyn Sandys, of Norborne. Henry Sandys, the eldest son of Richard, above mentioned, was of Downe court; and his son, Jordan Sandys, esq., passed away Downe court by sale to Richard Oldner, esq. of Exton, who alienated this manor to Thomas Omer; and he left it by will to his grandson, Thomas Omer, esq.

DOWNE is in the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and being a *peculiar*, is in the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church is small, consisting of one aisle and a chancel, with a spire steeple at the west end. Among other monuments are the following: in the aisle, a gravestone for Anne wife of Roger Know, and Anne, wife of Henry Powle. On the north side, a mural monument for Mr. Robert Durling; another for Mr. Thomas Know; and on a gravestone, a brass plate, with the figure of a man and woman, the inscription in black letter, being to commemorate Thomas Petle. Another tomb, with a black letter inscription, for John Manning, and Agnes his wife, with several others for the same family. There are also many for the family of the Petle's, and a memorial,

with an inscription, for Jacob Verzelini, born in Venice, and Elizabeth his wife, of Antwerp, of the ancient houses of Vanburen and Mace. On the north side, within the rails, is a gravestone, with an inscription, for John Bederenden; while the eastern window contains several coats of arms of the Manning's, the Paton's, and the Verzilini's. In the north window of the chancel are the arms of the Petley's, and the relations of that family. In the first window, on the north side, is a large rose, finely coloured in glass, *parted per pale, argent and gules*, within a glory surmounted by a crown, for the union of the houses of York and Lancaster.

This church is esteemed as a chapel to the church of Hayes, the rectors of which are now instituted to the rectory of Hayes, with the chapel of Downe annexed.

By the *commission of Inquiry*, in 1650, it was returned that this parsonage was in one lease, with that of Orpington, worth £34 per annum, and that the vicarage yielded £20. This chapel is not in charge in the king's books.

In 1821 there were sixty-nine dwellings in the parish of Downe; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 185, females 155, making a total of 340 souls.

Cowdham lies next to Downe, southeastward, and is called in ancient writings, *Codeham*, *Cudham*, and *Coldham*, but is now generally spelt and called *Cudham*.

This parish lies in general on high ground, and is very hilly, the soil but indifferent, being for the most part strong and stiff earth, mixed with chalk. The district is very extensive, being bounded by no less than eleven parishes, and contains upwards of 6000 acres of land; it is narrow from east to west, towards the latter it reaches as far as Skid hill, on the confines of Surrey: from north to south, it is nearly four miles in length.

The village, containing the church, is situated in the eastern part, about 100 rods from Chelsfield, and a quarter of a mile from the high road from Farnborough to Sevenoak, the spire being a conspicuous object to all the surrounding country. The high road from Bromley to Westerham crosses the western part of the parish, southward, near which are the estates of

Luxsted, Southstreet, Cowdham lodge, and Apperfield; the southern side of Leaves green (the remainder of which is in Keston) is within this parish, where an old mansion exists, called *Old Court*, or *Old House*, having been the residence of the Brazier's, it is now called Leaves Green farm, and passed to the widow of George Butler, esq. There is much coppice wood dispersed over this parish.

Cowdham was given by the Conqueror to the Bishop of Bayeux, and was held of him by Gilbert Maminot, being entered in Domesday record among the lands of that ecclesiastic. On his disgrace it continued with Gilbert Maminot, who became tenant of the king, as two knight's fees, being parcel of twenty-four that made up the barony of Maminot, Deptford being the chief, the whole held as of the castle of Dover, *in capite*, by barony, the tenant of Cowdham being bound to maintain a certain number of soldiers for the defence of the above fortress.

His great grandson, Wakelin de Maminot, died without issue the 3d of Richard I., when Alice, his sister, conveyed this estate to her husband, Geoffry, son of William de Say; and dying the 16th of John, was succeeded by his son, Geoffry, one of the *Recognitores Magnæ Assisæ*, who joining the barons, his lands fell into the king's hands, after whose death they were restored to him. He died in Gascony the 14th of Henry III., leaving one son, William de Say, who succeeded, and was constituted governor of Rochester castle, and he died the 56th year of the above reign, holding this manor.

His son, William de Say, held it the 23d of Edward I., leaving a son, Geoffry, whose wardship was obtained by William de Leyborne, whose daughter, Idonea, he subsequently espoused. In the 7th of Edward II., he was summoned to Parliament; eight years after which he died, holding this estate *in capite*, leaving Geoffry his son and heir, who was summoned to Parliament the 1st of Edward III., in the 8th year of which reign he had view of *frankpledge* here, and obtained a charter of *free warren* in his lands of Cowdham. In the 10th year of the same prince he was appointed admiral of the fleet from the Thames, westward; and, in the 27th year of that reign, named Geoffry de Saye, *lord of Cowdham*, among the peers, and again summoned to Parliament. He died the 33d of

Edward III., leaving by his wife, Maud, daughter of the earl of Warwick, William de Say and three daughters.

William de Say was summoned to Parliament the 37th of Edward III., and died the 47th year of that reign, leaving John his son and heir, who died a ward of the king in the 6th of Richard II.; and a daughter, Elizabeth, who possessed this manor. She espoused John de Fallesby, afterwards knighted, who possessed his wife's inheritance; but dying without issue, she again married Sir William Heron, who held Cowdham, and was lord Say in her right. In the 19th of Richard II., he, with his wife, levied a fine to the use of themselves and male heirs; four years after which she died, when the manor passed to Sir William Heron, who died the 6th of Henry IV. The estate then devolved to her heirs, Sir William de Chirton, grandson of Idonea, elder sister of William de Say, last mentioned; Mary, wife of Otho de Worthington, and Matilda her sister, daughters of Thomas de Aldon; and his wife, Elizabeth, next sister of William; and Roger de Fiennes, grandson of William de Fiennes; and Joane his wife, third sister of William de Say: on the division of their inheritance, this manor passed to Roger de Fiennes, descended from John, one of the great favorites of William the Conqueror: Roger, above named, bore for his arms, *Azure, three lions rampant or.* He left two sons, Richard and Robert, the former married Joane, a daughter and ultimately sole heir of Sir Thomas Dacre, elder son and heir of Thomas lord Dacre; and on that account, in the 37th of Henry VI., he was declared lord Dacre, and summoned to Parliament.

Sir Thomas Dacre, previously mentioned, (whose daughter, Joane, espoused Sir Richard Fiennes,) died in his father's lifetime, leaving two brothers, Ranulph, who died without issue, and Humphrey Dacre, both of whom, as heirs male, were successively styled lords Dacre. From the period when Sir Edward Fiennes was created lord Dacre disputes arose between himself and Joane his lady, on the one part, and Sir Humphrey Dacre, the uncle and heir male, on the other, respecting the lordship, manors, castles, &c. that had belonged to the late lord Dacre. It was ultimately agreed to leave the matter in dispute to the decision of Edward IV., who, in his 13th year, made provision for Sir Richard Fiennes and his wife Joane, and her heirs, and sundry entails of manors, as well to lord Dacre of

the North, the male heir, as to Fennys, the heir general; a pedigree was also noted for the line of lord Dacre, and the same precedence in Parliament, enjoyed by her grandfather, were confirmed to Sir Richard and Joane his lady, and their heirs, with manors, &c. in dispute; but Gillesland, in Cumberland, the seat of the Vaux's, was adjudged to Sir Humphrey Dacre, who was created baron, with next place to Sir Robert Fienes, and styled lord Dacre, of Gillesland, or the North, as was the other of the South; the former bearing, *Gules, three escalops argent.* To return to Sir Richard Fiennes, lord Dacre, he was, by Henry VI., made constable of the Tower, and died the 1st of Richard III., when he was interred at Hurstmonceaux, possessed of *Codham.* He left his grandson, Thomas, his heir, and a daughter, Elizabeth, married to John lord Clinton and Saye. Thomas Fienes, lord Dacre, of the South, was knight of the Bath, and summoned to Parliament under Henry VII., who died the 25th of Henry VIII., holding this manor, and was also buried at Hurstmonceaux.

He left Sir Thomas Fienes, lord Dacre, his grandson and heir, who came to an untimely end, for when chasing the deer in Sir Nicholas Pelham's park, at Loughton, in Sussex, with attendants, a fray ensued, when the latter was wounded, and died shortly after, and though lord Dacre was not present, but in another part of the park, (for they were separated into different parties shortly after their arrival,) he was, nevertheless, adjudged guilty of the murder, and suffered death in the 33d of Henry VIII., having passed his twenty-fourth year. All historians agree that the rigor of the law ought in that case to have been tempered with mercy; as, prior to the accident, he was a nobleman of the most promising description, but his estate caused his destruction, the courtiers having exasperated the tyrannic monarch, who was himself too prone to severity. He left a son, Gregory, and a daughter, Margaret, who were restored in blood, &c. the 1st of Elizabeth.

Gregory *Fynes*, lord Dacre, who quartered the arms of Dacre, of the North and Fitzhugh, married Anne, sister of Thomas lord Buckhurst, when dying without issue, his sister became his heir. He had settled the manor of Cowdham on her, who had then espoused Sampson Lennard, esq. of Chevening, and the heirs of her body; and after his demise she held this manor,

and having laid claim to the barony of Dacre, it was, in the 2d of James I., adjudged to her and her heirs, with precedency as enjoyed by her ancestors. She died the 9th year of the above prince, leaving Henry lord Dacre her son and heir, who died five years after, when the estates descended to Richard Lennard, lord Dacre, his eldest son, married to Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Arthur Throgmorton, by whom he had two sons, Francis and Thomas, who died without progeny. He afterwards married Dorothy, daughter of Dudley lord North, (who survived him, and died in 1698,) by whom he had one son, Richard, who assumed the name of Barrett; from whom the late Thomas Lennard, lord Dacre, was, on the father's side, lineally descended, as he was from Francis lord Dacre, by that of his mother. He left a daughter, Catherine, and died the 6th of Charles I., holding this manor; on which Cowdham descended to Francis Lennard, lord Dacre, his eldest son, by his first wife. He espoused Elizabeth, sister of Paul viscount Banning, and had three sons, Thomas, Francis, and Henry, and three daughters. Fienes lord Dacre dying in 1662, was buried at Chevening, having devised his lands to his son, Thomas, in tail male, and having left his lands in Cowdham, in jointure, to his wife, Elizabeth, who was, in 1680, created countess of Shepey for life; the rents of assize were still held by Dorothy, dowager lady Dacre.

Elizabeth countess of Shepey died in 1686, when her elder son, Thomas lord Dacre, created earl of Sussex by Charles II., enjoyed the lands of Cowdham. He married lady Anne Palmer, otherwise Fitzroy, daughter of Barbara countess of Castlemain, afterwards duchess of Cleveland, and acknowledged by Charles II. for his natural daughter. Dorothy lady Dacre dying in 1698, the earl of Suffolk took the rents of assize of Cowdham, held by her in jointure; and in 1707, the earl and his lady conveyed the manor, &c. to Thomas Streatfield, esq. The year before this conveyance, however, Margaret, Anne, and Catherine, the infant daughters of Henry Lennard, (youngest of the three sons, and coheirs in gavelkind to Francis and Richard lords Dacre,) by their guardian, laid claim to the moiety of this manor, and the lands adjoining, so sold by the earl, but the earl of Sussex, in a trial, obtained a full verdict in his favor. From Thomas Streatfield, esq. this manor descended

to his grandson, Thomas, of Sevenoak, esq. who possessed the same.

The manor of Apulderfield, called anciently the *manor of Apuldre*, and now, by contraction of the former name, *Apperfield*, lies about two miles southwestward from Cowdham church, having been anciently part of the barony of Maminot. From him the fee of this manor descended to Alice, sister and coheir of Wakelin Maminot, who carried it in marriage to Geoffrey de Say, of which family, in the reign of Henry III., it was held by one of the eminent race of Apulderfield, who bore for their arms, *Sable, a cross voided, or*. In the 11th of Edward II., John de Insula had a charter of *free warren* granted for his manor of Apulderfield, which was renewed to Stephen de Ashway, who, in the 38th of Edward III., had a free chapel annexed to the same.

This manor continued in the name of Ashway for many generations, till it became by purchase the property of the Denny's, whose descendants passed it by sale to George Dacre, esq. He exchanged it with the crown, whence it was granted to John Lennard, of Chevening, on whose death, in the 33d of Elizabeth, his son Sampson succeeded to it, and died under James I., devising this manor to his eldest son, Henry lord Dacre, in tail male. He, by will in 1654, devised this inheritance to his eldest son, Thomas, afterwards earl of Sussex, and dying in 1662, his widow, afterwards countess of Shepey, possessed it in jointure, till her death in 1686, when upon the trial before mentioned, the earl of Sussex obtained a verdict in his favor.

The earl of Sussex, in 1707, conveyed the manor of Apperfield to Mr. Thomas Know, who died possessed of it in 1728, and in that family it descended down to Sir William Geary, bart., who possessed the same.

This manor pays a feefarm rent of £3 11s. per annum to the crown. There is a place in this parish formerly called the *manor of Bertrey*, part of the estate in Cowdham, given to Gilbert de Maminot in the reign of William the Conqueror. From that family it went by marriage to the Say's, one of whom laid claim to this estate under the reign of Edward III., before the name became extinct, which was about the time of Richard II., when this manor was annexed to that adjoining, of Apperfield, in this parish, in which state it continued.

Richard de Cherfholt had anciently some property in the hamlet of Bertrey, or Bettred, as it was afterwards called, and held the receivership of the manor of Bertrey under Geoffrey de Say. He died without issue male, when his daughter carried the estate which he held therein, in marriage to William de Manning, who died in the 17th of Edward III. He was son of Stephen de Manning, descended from Simon de Manning, who are said to have owed their origin from an ancient and noble family, that derived its name from Manning, a town in Saxony, whence they came into England before the Conquest, some of whom are said to have settled in Friesland. They bore for their arms, *Gules, a cross potence or, flory between four cinque-foils or.* From him it descended to Hugh Manning, who settled at St. Mary Cray, and left two sons, whose posterity were existing till within some late years.

COWDHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and *deanery* of Dartford. The church, dedicated to Sts. Peter and Paul, consists of a body and chancel, having an aisle on the north side, and a chapel on the south, with a spire steeple on the same side.

This church contains the following monuments: on a grave, the figure of a woman in brass, and inscription in black letter for Alys, wife of Walter Waleys, with the arms of the Waleys': in the great chancel are several memorials for the family of the Brazier's, of Old House, in this parish. On the south side is an ancient altar tomb of stone, with some letters cut in relievo within a Gothic rose. In the east window of the north chancel appear the following ancient shields: first, the arms of England; second, those of Valence, earl of Pembroke; and third, quarterly, *gules, and or*; fourth, Waleys'.

In the 15th of Edward I., the church of Cowdham was valued at thirty-five marks, and the vicarage at six and a half. This vicarage is valued in the king's books at £13 2 6, but is a discharged living of the clear value of £38 5 10, the yearly tenths being £1 6 3.

In 1821 there were 124 dwellings in the parish of Cowdham; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 347, females 336, making a total of 683 souls.

NOCKHOLT is the next parish southeastward from Cowdham, and took its name from the old English words, *Noke*, a corner, and *holt*, a wood. This parish is but small, and lies near the summit of the upper or northern ridge of Kentish hills, which bound the southern part. The village, which contains the church, stands nearly in the centre of the parish, having Shelley's and Norsted greens to the northward; the east and west parts being much covered with coppice wood. At the former boundary, near NOCKHOLT POUND, is the high London road through Farnborough to Sevenoaks; and in the southern part, near the summit of the hills, is the well known toll of trees, commonly called Nockholt beeches, which, though standing in a hollow near thirty feet deep, are seen as a conspicuous object at a great distance both from the north and south. The soil is but poor, being in general a stiff clay, mixed with chalk.

The boundaries of this parish, and the lordship of Okholt, in the 3d of Edward IV., stand entered in a MS. among the archives of the dean and chapter of Canterbury.

The parish of Nockholt is within the manor of Great Orpington, to which it is an appendage, having been in the possession of Sir John Dixon Dyke, bart.

BRAMPTONS is a small manor in the western part of this parish, among the woods, formerly possessed by owners who gave it that name. This place became by a female heir the inheritance of the family of the Petley's, whence it was conveyed, in the reign of Edward IV., by sale to William Quintin, which family afterwards assumed the name of Oliver. By a female heiress it went in marriage to St. John, of Sevenoak, who, surviving her husband, she afterwards conveyed it by sale to Thomas Streatfield, esq. of Sevenoaks, but it has for many years lost the reputation of being ranked a manor.

SHELLEYS is another small manor, lying about half a mile northward of the village, anciently called the *manor of Schottis*, or *Ockholt*, which name it acquired from its situation among the oaken woods; *ac*, in Saxon, signifying an oak, and *holt*, a wood, the *a* in *ac* being frequently changed into *o*, as appears in the names of many villages. It was anciently the property and residence of a younger branch of the family of the Shelle's, or, as they afterwards spelt their name, Shelley. The elder branch subsequently settled in Sussex, where it still remains.

Thomas Shelle possessed this manor in the reign of Edward I., writing himself de Schottis, or Ockholt, and bore for his arms, *three escalops*. His descendant, Thomas, was of Gaysum, in Westerham, whose son John succeeded him in this manor in the reign of Richard II. One of his descendants, John Shelley, esq. of Hall place, died possessed of the manor of Shelley's, or Ockholt, in the 20th of Henry VI., and his heir alienated this manor to Sir John Champneys, when it was sold by that family to William Gooday, gent. of Suffolk. By a female heir of the latter line it was then carried in marriage to Mr. Richard Fancourt, who sold it to Richard Allnutt, esq., of London, upon whose death it was vested in trustees for the use of his grandchildren.

Nockholt is in the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Rochester, but, being a *peculiar* of the archbishop, is as such within the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church stands in the centre of the village, and consists of one aisle and a chancel, having a tower steeple at the west end. It had formerly a spire, which was blown down.

There are very few inscriptions in this church, and only one of any account being on a gravestone on the north side of the chancel, part of which is under the rails, commemorative of Francis Collins, minister of this church. It was once esteemed as a chapel to the church of Orpington.

By virtue of the *commission of Inquiry*, in 1650, it was returned that Nockholt was a parsonage, with a house and two acres of glebe land, worth £34 per annum, and that the tithes of wood were included in the lease of Orpington parsonage.

In 1821 there were eighty-three dwellings in the parish of Nockholt; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 215, females 192, making a a total of 407 souls.

Chelsfield adjoins Nockholt to the northward, and is variously spelt in ancient writings. In Domesday it is written both *Cillisfelle* and *Ciresfel*, *ch* being one of the eight English aspirats not known to the old English Saxons; in the *Textus Roffensis*, *Cilesfeld*, and in other records of a later date, *Chellesfeld*, and now *Chelsfield*. It most probably took its name

from its cold and open situation; *ceald,* or *cite,* in the Saxon tongue, signifying cold; and *feld,* a plain or field.

This parish, which is large, lies in general on high ground; the village contains nothing remarkable. At a small distance westward is the court lodge and the church, and at the same distance eastward the parsonage. The high road from London, through Farnborough to Sevenoaks, crosses this parish through the hamlets of Greenstreet green, and Spratts bottom, to the southward. The soil is in general very poor and indifferent, and the lands let at easy rents.

The liberty of the duchy of Lancaster claims over the manors of Chelsfield and Goddington, over the woodlands called Charm wood, and the rectory of Chelsfield. These estates were accounted part of that duchy, as having been anciently held under the seignory of Simon de Montfort, the great earl of Leicester, who, forfeiting the estate for rebellion in the 49th of Henry III., his lands and honours were given by the king to his second son, Edmund earl of Lancaster, since which these places have been esteemed part of that duchy.

Chelsfield was part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, and entered under the general title of his lands in Domesday record.

Ernulf de Hesding held this manor of Odo, and we believe him to be the same person who, in the *Textus Roffensis,* is called Arnulf de Cilesfelda, and, in another part of Domesday, Esbern de Cillesfelle, wherein he is recorded to have possessed the liberties of sac and soc for all his lands throughout the laths of Sutton and Aylesford.

This place gave both seat and surname to his posterity. Letitia Domina de Chilefeld is mentioned in the chartulary of St. Radigund's abbey, near Dover, as having been a benefactress to that monastery, wherein mention is also made of Simon de Chilefeld, her son. He held this manor in the reign of Edward I., as one knight's fee.

From that family the possession of this manor passed to Otho de Grandison, and descended down to Sir Thomas Grandison, who died without issue in the 50th of the above reign.

This manor, in the 22d of Richard II., was the inheritance of Philippa, granddaughter and heir of Sir Guy Bryan, and widow of John Devereux, who the same year married Sir Henry

le Scroope, of Masham, She died in the 8th of Henry IV. possessed of this manor, leaving Elizabeth, wife of Robert Lovel, her sister and next heir.

James Boteler, earl of Wiltshire, afterwards possessed this manor, and the advowson of the church of Chelsfield, and, being attainted and beheaded, the property became vested in the crown, whence it was granted for life to Robert Poynings, who died possessed of the estate in the 9th of Edward IV.; it then reverted to the crown, and was shortly after granted to Henry viscount Bourchier, earl of Essex, to hold in special tail.

In the 13th of Henry VI. he bore the title of earl of Eu, and died in the 23d of Edward IV. possessed of this manor, leaving Henry Bourchier, his grandson, heir to all his inheritance. He left one sole daughter and heir Anne, married to Sir William Parre, lord Parre, of Kendal, and afterwards earl of Essex, and marquis of Northampton, which marriage was annulled by Act of Parliament in the 5th of Edward VI.

Under Henry VIII. this manor was vested in the crown, and held by James Walsingham, whose son Francis parted with his interest in the 4th of Edward VI. to Robert Giles, being held of the king *in capite*, as of his duchy of Lancaster. His descendant sold it to Captain Lee, of London, whence, passing through many names, it became ultimately vested, in 1793, in the widow of Brass Crosley, esq. The messuage, called the Great Court Lodge, in Chelsfield, is held of the manor of Farnborough, commonly called the Duchy court, by the yearly rent of eighteen pence.

Goddington is a small manor in this parish, anciently one of the seats of a family of the same name, which had another mansion at Great Chart, in this county. Simon de Godyngton held this place in the reign of Edward I., and his descendant, William, paid aid for the manor in the 20th of Edward III. In the 26th year of that reign a fine was levied between Henry duke of Lancaster and Henry de Scoland, of three knight's fees, which the latter held of the duke in Chellesfield, Farnborough, and Strode.

Alan de Godyngton was in the possession of the property in the 3d of Henry IV., and then paid aid for the same, on the marriage of Blanch, the king's eldest daughter, as one knight's fee.

When that family became extinct, the manor passed to the possession of the family of the Poynings', and Robert, younger son of Robert lord Poynings, died possessed of it under Edward IV., leaving Edward his son, who, being very loyal towards Henry earl of Richmond, after the battle of Bosworth field, was much favored both by him and Henry VIII. He died in the 14th of the latter reign, having had one son, who died during his life, when his estates became escheated to the crown.

This property was afterwards vested in the name of Hadden, a family of some account, as appears by the register of their arms, viz. *a leg, couped and wounded.* It continued in this family for several generations, when it passed into the possession of the Styles's, one of whom passed it away, about 1736, to Mrs. Mary Aynscomb, and her son alienated it to James Harris, gent., who resided there.

A court-baron is held for this manor, the tenants being all free.

Hewats, or as it is now called Hewits, is another small manor, which had once owners of that name. Jeffry de Hewat possessed it in the reign of Henry III., after which it was, for many descents, the property of the Petley's, at Downe. In 1788 Mrs. Elizabeth Petley possessed it, but the mansion house with the lands, called Hewits, have been long separated from this family, and some few years back, belonged to Mr. James Roudeau, who sold them to Mr. Fuller and he resided there.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

Norsted is a small manor, extending into the parishes of Cowdham and Farnborough; it was, in ancient times, part of the estate possessed by the family of the Grandison's, and purchased of Otho de Grandison, by Simon de Francis, a wealthy citizen of London.

In the reign of Henry IV. the family became extinct, and the manor was possessed by one Unedall, or Udall, a descendant of whom, in the reign of Henry VI., passed away this manor by sale to John Shelley, of Hall place, in Bexley. It then passed to the Lennard's lords Dacres, from whom it was conveyed, under James I., to lady Wolriche, who settled it on her kinsman, Mr. Skeggs, of Huntingdonshire. In 1784 it was

alienated to Godfrey Lees Farrant, esq. of Widmore, near Bromley, whose only daughter, Margaret, married George Bensted, esq. by whom she had two sons, George and Thomas. He survived her, and, in 1795, in pursuance of the desire of Elizabeth Farrant, of London, spinster, sister of the said Godfrey, obtained the king's licence for him and his issue, to take and use the surname and arms of Farrant, only, the heir of whom was of Norsted, and owned this estate.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

CHELSFIELD is in the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Dartford. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is small, and consists of one aisle, a chancel, and a small chapel dedicated to St. John.

Among other monuments are the following: in the great chancel a brass plate, representing the figure of a priest, for William Rodbroke, rector of this church; another for Alice, wife of Thomas Bray: on an adjoining stone a memorial for Thomas Skeggs, junior; above which is a shield of arms for Thomas Skeggs; and, on the south side, before the altar rails, a memorial for Roger Goodday; on the south side of the altar, a tablet and inscription for three rectors, named Smith, grandfather, father, and son; on the south side at the west end of the chancel, a tomb for Thomas Brown; another fine mural monument of alabaster, with the figures of a man and woman kneeling, beneath which, on a table, is an inscription for John Coullert; adjoining stands a small mural monument with the figure of a child resting on a cushion, bearing an inscription for Peter, eldest son of Sir Peter Heyman, of Sellinge: on the north side is a monument indicating in that family vault lie the remains of the Norton's; a gravestone for Thomas Fothergill, of Lincoln's Inn, and Mary his wife; and a memorial for Nicholas Hughes, with the arms above.

In the 15th of Edward I. the church of Chelsfield was valued at thirty marks, and stood in the king's books at £24 14 2, the yearly tenths being £2 9 5.

By the *commission of Inquiry* it was returned, that Chelsfield was a parsonage, worth in all £80 per annum; and that Farnborough was a chapel of ease to Chelsfield, then divided.

In 1821 there were 128 dwellings in the parish of Chelsfield; and at the same period, when the last census of the population

was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 418, females 338, making a total of 756 souls.

ORPINGTON adjoins Chelsfield to the northward, the name being a corruption from the original, which was *Dorpentune*, a denomination partly British, and partly Saxon, signifying the village or street where the head or spring of water rises. In Domesday it is called *Orpintun*, and in old deeds and charters, *Orpyntone* and *Orpedingtune*.

This parish is very extensive; the village, which is populous, lies in the valley, having the church and Mr. Carew's house on the east side; and near the same, to the northward, is the house of *Barkhart*. On the hills, at the eastern extremity, is East hall; and westward, among the woods, the manor of Crofton. At Newell, west of the village, is the river Cray, so called from the Saxon word *Crecca*, signifying a little brook or rivulet, which running hence, almost due north, passes through the several parishes of Cray (to which it gives name,) to Bexley and Crayford, where it crosses the London road, and joins the river Darent, below Dartford, whence it flows, in one channel with that stream, into the Thames, nearly opposite Purfleet, in Essex.

A small part of this parish is in the liberty of the duchy of Lancaster, and the residue in that of the archbishop of Canterbury, which claims over the manor of Orpington.

THE MANOR OF ORPINGTON, otherwise called *Orpington Magna*, extends likewise over the parishes of Hayes, Downe, Nockholt, and St. Mary Cray, accounted appendages thereto. In 1032, Eadsy, a priest, with the consent of King Canute and Elgife his queen, gave his land at Orpedingtune to the monastery of Christ church, in Canterbury, to God's servants, for garment land.

Odo bishop of Bayeux, among other acts of tyranny, seized this manor from Christ church; which, however, he did not long retain, being restored to that church by the assembly held in 1076, at Pinenden heath.

King John granted a weekly market for this manor; and Edward II., in his 10th year, confirmed to them and their successors *free warren* in their demesne lands in Orpington. In this state it continued till the dissolution of the monastery,

under Henry VIII., when, being surrendered, it was granted to Percival Hart, esq. of Lullingstone, from whom it lineally descended to Percival Hart, esq., who leaving an only daughter and heir, she carried this manor in marriage to her second husband, Sir Thomas Dyke, of Horeham, in Sussex, whose only surviving son, Sir John Dixon Dyke, bart. of Lullingstone, afterwards possessed it.

Sir Percival Hart, knight of the body guard to Henry VIII., grantee of the manor of Orpington, as before mentioned, built a seat in this parish, in which he magnificently entertained Queen Elizabeth on the 22d of July, 1573, who, on her reception, was addressed by a nymph, personating the genius of the mansion; the scene then shifted, when a bark or ship, with a seafight, was represented to her view, which so much pleased the queen, that at her departure, (to perpetuate the memory both of the owner and his entertainment,) she gave this house the name of *Barkhart*, by which it is still called, having been part of the possessions of Sir John Dixon Dyke, bart. of Lullingstone, before mentioned.

CROFTON is a manor, or, as it is now called, *Crawton*, which lies in the midst of the woods, about a mile and a half westward from Orpington street; it is said to have been once a parish of itself, and destroyed by fire. It was anciently part of the possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in Domesday record.

In the reign of Edward I. it had become the inheritance of Ralph de Wibourn, whose family was of some account, and possessed of considerable property in this county. From that name it passed, in the reign of Edward III., to Sir Robert Belknap, who being attainted in the 11th of Richard II., was banished to Ireland. In the 2d of Henry VI. this manor escheated to the crown, by the death of Juliana his wife, when, on the petition of Hamon, their son, the lands of his father were restored to him. He left three sons, John, William, and Henry, each of whom successively inherited this manor. The last died in the 3d of Henry VII., leaving a son, Edward, and four daughters; he was succeeded by his son, Edward, and died in the 12th of Henry VIII., on which his four sisters became his heirs. Elizabeth, married to Sir Philip Cook, of Giddy hall, in Essex; Mary, to George Dannet, esq.; Alice, to Sir William

Shelley; and Anne, to Sir Robert Wotton, who soon after passed it to Sir Robert Read, and he conveyed it to the hospital of the Savoy, in London; whence it passed to St. Thomas's hospital, in Southwark, in which it became vested. There was a *free chapel* at this place, called *Rufferth chantry*, suppressed by the Act of the 1st of Edward VI., which was distant two miles from the parish church: when, upon a survey taken, it appeared that there was a flood between them, whereby the people of Crofton were prevented from going thither; and that there were two chantries in this chapel.

Mayfield place is a seat on the west side of the village of Orpington, being the site of the small manor of *Little Orpington*, otherwise Mayfield. The name of Mayfield, or Mayvil, being its most ancient and proper designation, was acquired from a family which formerly held it. Philip de Malevill, or Mayvil, held this manor, in the 13th of King John, of Richard de Rokesley, who held it of the archbishop as the fourth part of a knight's fee; Malgerius de Rokesle, ancestor of Richard, held it of the archbishop by knight's service in the reign of the Conqueror; and in the general survey of Domesday it was entered under the title of lands held of the archbishop.

When the family of Mayfield quitted the possession of this manor we do not find, but in the reign of Edward III. the family of Rokesley held it, as John, a descendant, conveyed it to Sir John Peche, who dying without issue, his sister passed it in marriage to John Hart, esq., from whom it descended to William Hart, esq., who died in 1671.

Sir Fisher Tench possessed this property in the reign of George I., who dying in 1763, was succeeded by his son, Sir Nathaniel Tench, where it remained till carried in marriage by a female heir to Richard Glode, esq., who afterwards resided there.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

Easthall is a manor here, so called from its situation near the eastern bounds of the parish, though great part of the lands lie in St. Mary Cray.

In the reign of Edward I. it was in the possession of the family of Chellesfield, from which it passed, before the conclusion of that reign, to Otho de Grandison, whose descend-

ant, Sir Thomas, died in the 50th of Edward III., possessed of this manor; it then passed in the same line of ownership as that of Chellesfield, Isabel, widow of Henry viscount Bourchier, dying possessed of both.

In the following reign of Henry VII. this manor appears to have been in the possession of Sir Edward Poynings, K.G., who died holding it in the 14th of Henry VIII. On his death it was granted by that monarch to Sir Thomas Cromwell, afterwards earl of Essex, on whose attainder it became again vested in the crown, and so continued till the king granted the property to Sir Martin Bowes, to hold *in capite*, who alienated it, under Edward VI., to Sir Percival Hart, one of whose daughters carried it in marriage to her second husband, Sir Thomas Dyke, bart. of Horeham, in Sussex; and their only son, Sir John Dixon Dyke, bart. of Lullingstone, afterwards possessed the estate. From the Escheat Rolls it appears, under date of the 28th of Edward III., that Augustine Walleys then held premises, called *Bucklers*, in Orpington. Edward VI., in his 5th year, granted a messuage, formerly *de la Hays*, in Orpington, to Edward lord Clinton and Saye; and the Hon. Richard Spencer, son of Robert lord Spencer, of Wormleighton, was possessed of a *seat in Orpington*, where he resided; he died in 1661, leaving two daughters, Mary, married to William Gee, of Yorkshire; and Margaret, to John Venables, of Cheshire, who became his heirs. William Gee held this property in right of his wife, in which line it descended until 1791, when leaving two sons, the eldest possessed this seat, who, prior to his father's decease, took the arms and name of Carew, and, in 1794, served the office of sheriff, and resided here.

ORPINGTON is in the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and being a *peculiar*, in the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church, dedicated to All Saints, is small, consisting of one aisle and a chancel at the east end, the screen between them presenting a curious Gothic carving in oak, in excellent preservation; the spire and part of the tower are shingled. On the north side of the inner portal, at the west end, is a tomb in the wall, under a stone arch, curiously ornamented, beneath which is an altar tomb, now boarded over to form a seat. The entrance or west door is of Norman

architecture, as appears from the embellishments, and the monuments are as follow: on a board affixed to the screen, a memento for one Oliver, third son of Thomas Watts, vicar; in the great chancel, a tomb for Richard Gee, esq. and his wife Philippa; on a gravestone, a black letter legend for William Gulby, esq.; another, near the altar, on a brass plate, with the figure of a priest, for Thomas Wilkynson, A.M., prebend of Rippon. A mural monument for Richard Spencer, with many others for the same family. In the north chancel, a tomb belonging to the seat called Barkhart, in this parish; a gravestone, with the figure of a priest, for John Gover, vicar; and upon two truss stones, at the entrance of the chancel, are the following arms: first, *a chevron between three trefoils;* second, as the former, *impaling a bend on a chief, two mullets pierced.*

In the 15th of Edward I. the church of Orpington was estimated at sixty marks, and the vicarage at eight.

In 1821 there were 129 dwellings in the parish of Orpington; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 410, females 344, making a total of 754 souls.

St. Mary Cray lies next parish northward, anciently called *South Cray,* as being most southerly of the parishes in this district. As early as the period of Edward I. it was known by its present name. The parish occupies a valley close to the river Cray; and near its western banks is the populous village, consisting of a street three quarters of a mile long, having the church eastward; the market continued to be held in the market-house until blown down in 1703. In this village are *two seats* worthy notice, one having belonged to the Haddon's, owners of Godyngton, in Chellesfield, in which name it continued till Alexander Haddon passed it to Edmund Hodsoll, of South Ash. He died in 1711, leaving four sons and seven daughters; and from him this seat descended to Mr. Edward Hodsoll, banker, of London, who much improved it; and he died possessing it in 1794, as did his son, immediately after, unmarried. It then passed to his sister, Matilda Hodsoll, lately deceased. The *other seat* was the property and residence of Benjamin Greenwood, esq., who left one son, George, and

a daughter, married to William Cope, esq. George Greenwood, esq. resided here, and died possessed of this estate in 1775, leaving his sister his heir, whose husband, William Cope, esq. passed it away to Mr. Whitaker, of London; after which it was purchased by Gerard Levinge Van Heythuysen, esq., who lived there.

The house in which the Stanhope family resided in this parish is called the Mount, and, from the ruins of walls, &c. appears to have been a seat of some note, but is now reduced to a mere cottage, being at present the property of James Chapman, esq. of Paul's Cray Hill.

A fair is held here on the 10th of September, for toys.

This parish is within the manor of Great Orpington, to which it is an appendage; the liberty of the duchy of Lancaster claiming over such part as is not within the manor.

In the 7th of Edward I. a weekly market was granted to the parish of Cray.

St. Mary Lyng Ockmere is a manor in this parish, having formerly ranked as two, called the manors of Ackmere and Sentling. At the survey of Domesday they were part of the possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux, and so entered in that record. After his disgrace they passed into the possession of Jeffry de Peverel, who held them *in capite*, by barony, of the castle of Dover.

In the 13th of King John, they were owned by John de Mares, who held them by the same service; when, in the reign of Edward I., they passed to Gregory de Rokesle, who obtained a fair and a market in his manor of Sentling. He died possessed of these manors in the 20th of Edward I., when Reginald held them in the reign of Edward III., by the service of one knight's fee, and paying to the ward of Dover castle 16s. 4d., for each week in which he ought to perform ward there, and also paying to the manor of Ospringe one pair of gilt spurs and suit to the king's court of Ospringe; after which it was found that his grandson, Richard Rokesle, was his heir.

They continued in that family till the latter end of the reign of Edward III., when Reginald died possessed of the estate; soon after which it became the property of Sir Robert Belknap, who being attainted and banished, Juliana, his wife,

nevertheless continued in possession, and died in the 2d of Henry V., leaving her son, Sir Hamon, her heir. He died possessed of this property, as did his grandson, Sir Edward, in the 12th of Henry VIII., without issue, when his four sisters became his coheirs; and on a partition of his estates, these manors fell to the share of Anne wife of Sir Robert Wotton, of Bocton Malherbe, who in her right possessed them, in the reign of James I. The property then descended to Thomas lord Wotton, who dying without male issue, under Charles I., his four daughters became his heirs, the eldest of whom, Catherine, carried this manor and Ockmere, which were esteemed as one, in marriage to Henry lord Stanhope, son and heir to Philip earl of Chesterfield. He died during the life of his father, leaving one son, Philip, and two daughters, surviving, when the estate descended to Philip Dormer Stanhope, earl of Chesterfield, who passed away this manor of St. Mary Lyng Ockmere to Thomas Barrett, esq. of Shoreham. It so remained till two female heirs joined in the sale of the property to Herman Berens, esq. of Kevington, who died possessed of it in 1794, and was succeeded by his son, Joseph Berens, esq.

Kevington is a manor and seat in this parish, corruptly called Kebingtown; it was for some generations the residence of the family of the Manning's; and in the reign of Henry IV. John Manning died possessed of this estate, leaving one son, Hugh, who was of St. Mary Cray. He left two sons, John, who settled at Downe, from whom descended the Manning's of Downe, Halsted, and Westerham; and Richard, who continued at St. Mary Cray, and had three sons, of whom Richard, son of Thomas, the eldest, is said to have been of Manning's hall, the old family seat. It continued in this line till bequeathed to Denzill Onslow, esq., from whose son it passed by sale to Herman Berens, esq., and he left one son, Joseph Berens, esq., who succeeded him in this estate.

Hockenden is a manor partly in this parish and partly in that of St. Paul's Cray and Sutton at Hone. In the reign of Edward I. it was in the possession of the family of the Hargraves. Sir Robert de Hargrave having owned the manor of Hockindenne, in the 24th year of the above reign, as he released to the prior and convent of Christ church in Canter-

bury a piece of land lying near their wood at Hockindenne; his seal, *a cross vairy*, being appendant to the deed. His descendant, Robert de Hargrave, died possessed of the property in the 12th of Edward III.

In later times the family of the Feerbys, or Ferbys, residing at Paul's Cray Hill, possessed this manor, one of whom, Sir Leonard Feerby, in 1675, conveyed his manor of Hockinden to Mrs. Mary Yeend, widow, who devised it by will to her grandchild, Mary, eldest daughter of Sir Anthony Browne. He left four daughters, Mary, the devisee, who married John Archer, and died without issue, when Lady Rawsterne, one of her sisters, by a decree in chancery, became possessed of one moiety or three sixths of the property, which portion afterwards devolved to William Wentworth, earl of Stafford, who died possessed of it in 1791, when it passed from his heirs by sale to James Chapman, esq.

The other moiety, being divided among the remaining daughters, became by descent and marriage the property of Thomas Sergison, esq., who, in 1640, conveyed the same by sale to Sir Thomas Dyke, bart., of Lullingstone.

The other sixth part ultimately passed by descent as well as will, to Elizabeth, only daughter and heir of Richard Young; and she, in 1747, sold her interest therein to Sir Thomas Dyke, bart., who thus possessed the three sixth parts, or one full and undivided moiety of this manor. From him it descended to his son, who, in 1767, passed it by sale to James Chapman, esq., of Paul's Cray Hill, who, purchasing the other moiety of the Earl of Stafford's heir, became owner of the whole of this estate and manor.

Waldens is a reputed manor, which, in 1662, was in the possession of Caleb Trenchfield, esq., who lies buried in Eltham church, and died possessed of this property. He was the son of Thomas Trenchfield, esq., one of the admirals of the navy under Charles I., and left a son, Caleb Trenchfield, merchant of London. This family bore for its arms *A chevron between three cinque-foils.* He sold this manor to one Ebbutt, whose descendant, Mr. John Ebbutt, dying, left it by will to his nephew of the same name, who owned the estate and resided there.

St. Mary Cray is in the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction

of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Dartford. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a large building, containing three aisles: a cross aisle, a large chancel, with two smaller, or chapels; the two latter belonging to the family of the Hodsoll's, in this parish; and at the west end is the steeple. It is esteemed as a chapel to the church of Orpington, and as such is in the patronage of the rector; the vicar of Orpington being instituted to the vicarage, with the chapel of St. Mary Cray appendant thereto.

In this church, among other monuments, are the following. In the cross aisle, on a gravestone, a brass plate with the figure of a woman in her shroud, and inscription in black letter, for Isabel Cossale, and William, her son; and another for Mr. John Abbott. In the south aisle is a brass plate for Alice Lorde, and within the altar rails, a mural monument for one of the family of the Mannings. On the south side an altar tomb, with the figures of a gentleman and lady, finely engraved in brass, with an inscription for Richard Manning and his wife, with several more for that family. A memento for Sir Henry Onslow, of Sussex, and memorials for the families of the King's and Greenwood's. A gravestone for Richard Avery and his two wives; also a rural monument for the family of the Crewe's and the Hodsoll's. On a grave stone a figure in brass for Elizabeth, wife of George Cobham, brother of Lord Cobham, and her first husband, John Hart, gent. By the *commission of Inquiry*, in 1650, it was returned that St. Mary Cray was a vicarage worth £16 per annum. Its valuation in the king's books being included in that of Orpington.

In 1821 there were 144 dwellings in the parish of St. Mary Cray; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 452, females 422, making a total of 874 souls.

Paul's Cray is the next parish southward, and takes its name from the church, dedicated to St. Paulinus, and the river Cray, which runs through it; being written in ancient deeds *Paulins Cray*, and sometimes *Cray Paulins;* while in the *Textus Roffensis* it is called *Rodulphus Cray*. This parish is

but small, being scarcely more than two miles and a half in length, from east to west, and about a mile and a half in breadth. It lies for the most part in the vale, through which the river directs its course, and having turned a mill, belonging to the Paul's Cray Hill estate, runs on northward, towards Foot's Cray. The high road from Orpington and St. Mary Cray passes through this district, towards the Maidstone road, and thence to Bexley and Dartford heath. There is no village, the houses being dispersed.

The church stands alone, partly surrounded by tall elm trees, the shade of which casts a pleasing gloom, and gives a picturesque appearance to the edifice as well as the churchyard. It is situated near the road, on the eastern side; the path conducting to it was originally through the water, to the great inconvenience of the passengers, but it is now raised above it. About half a mile eastward is Paul's Cray Hill, the opposite or western boundary being much covered with coppice wood, near which is Paul's Cray Common, extending to Chiselhurst; supposed on this side to have at times encroached on the boundaries of this parish. The soil is chiefly a light dark-coloured mould, though on some of the high grounds there is a strong loam. It is in general very fertile, pleasant, and healthy, being diversified by hill and dale, interspersed with woods, verdant pastures along the vallies, and on the gentle declivities fertile fields of corn and land.

The liberty of the duchy of Lancaster claims over part of this parish, as being within the duchy court of Farnborough, to which such lands holding of it pay certain annual rents.

Paul's Cray was part of the possessions of the bishop of Bayeux, and entered as such in Doomsday record. This place was afterwards part of the property of Sir Simon de Cray, who held it of the honour of Albermarle, and it was again held of him by Peter de Huntingfield, and Simon at Broke, as half a knight's fee. In the reign of Edward III. this manor was held by the family called De Campaigne, one of whom, John, paid aid for it as half a knight's fee, which Peter de Huntingfield and Simon at Broke had previously held in Crey Paulin of Simon De Crey. From that name it went to the Scroope's, as Henry Scroope, of Masham, possessed it under Richard II. He left two sons, Stephen, who inhe-

rited the property, and William created earl of Wiltshire. The eldest, Sir Stephen, succeeded him, and obtained a grant of free warren for his manor of Paulin's Crey, but being attainted, under Henry V., the manor became escheated to the crown, and his brother, Sir John Scroope, became his heir. In that family it descended till carried by a female heir, in marriage, to Sir Gilbert Talbot, of Worcestershire, whose son, Sir Gilbert, dying without issue male left two daughters, Catherine and Jane, one of whom carried this manor to a Darby, of Yorkshire. In that name it continued some years, till sold to one Hunt, and thence, under Elizabeth, to Mr. James Smith, of London, whose daughter conveyed it in marriage to Mr. Edmund Waller, of Beaconsfield Bucks. His descendant passed it by sale to James Narborough, esq., brother of Sir John Narborough, bart., and admiral of the fleet, under Charles and James II., both of whom were cast away with Sir Cloudesley Shovel off the Scilly Islands, in 1707. James Narborough settled this property on his three nieces, Elizabeth, Hannah, and Sophia, daughters of Sir Thomas D'Aeth, who carried this manor to their three husbands, the Hon. Henry Dawnay, Captain Fitzgerald, and William Champneys, esq., in which state it remained till 1742, when they all joined in the sale to the Hon. Thomas Townshend, of Chesilhurst, and his son, the Right Hon. Thomas Lord Viscount Sydney, possessed this manor.

A court-baron is held for this estate.

Sir Christopher Heron held these premises, under Henry VIII., who alienated them with the advowson to one Walsingham, of Scadbury, in Chesilhurst, whence they passed, by sale, to a Bettenson and from that name to the Hon. Thomas Townshend, of Chesilhurst, whose son, Lord Viscount Sydney, possessed this estate, &c.

Paul's Cray Hill is a seat here deriving its appellation from the site. It was at an early period the residence of the Ferreby's, or Ferby's, whose ancient seat was at Speldhurst, where they resided under Edward II. and III. John de Ferreby, under the latter prince, sealed with his coat-armour *a fess ermine between three goats' heads erased.* One of his descendants removed from Speldhurst hither, having purchased lands at Hockington, in this parish, of John Dynley, who in the

16th of Edward III., had license to erect a bridge over the stream to his lands here. Andrew Ferby held this seat, &c. under Henry VII., in whose line it passed to Lennard Ferby, who resided at, and much improved, the seat. He died, at Dartford, in 1679, when his grandsons, Maniford, Lennard, and John, his brother, passed this estate, in 1680, to George Gifford, of Penis, in Fawkham. His son dying without male issue, the estates became, by will and descent, the property of his daughters. In 1718 a partition was made of the property, when one moiety went to Frances Leigh, and Jane, his wife, who had previously held the other half. They in 1722, by their trustees, passed this property to William Chapman, on whose demise it went to his son, who dying without issue male, his daughter, Eleanor, conveyed it in marriage to Mr. James Chapman, jun., the son, who, on his father's death, held this manor, where he resided.

This parish is in the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Dartford. The church, dedicated to St. Paulinus, contains two aisles, and one chancel, with a pointed steeple at the west end. This fabric contains the following momentoes: in the chancel a tomb for Mr. Henry Frith, of North Cray; another for John Ashley, rector; a memento for William Scrafton, and their grandson, Lieutenant Thomas Sharp, who was lost in the Ramilies. In the north aisle is a gravestone for John Smith, of London, and above a figure in a windingsheet. An inscription for John Ferby, gent., many of that family, of Paul's Cray Hill, being also inhumed here, but the chancel belonging to them having fallen in, it is shut out from the rest of the edifice by a wall.

In the 15th of Edward I. the church of Grey Paulin was valued at eleven marks, and subsequently estimated in the king's books at £12 13 4; the yearly tenths being £1 5 4. There are twenty-two acres of glebe land appendant to this living.

By the *commission of Inquiry* in 1650, it was returned, that Paul's Cray was a parsonage, with a house and eighteen acres of glebe land, worth £60 per annum.

In 1820 there were seventy-two dwellings in the parish of Paul's Cray Hill; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the num-

bers of inhabitants were as follow: males 186, females 178, making a total of 364 souls.

Foot's Cray. Next to Paul's Cray, northward, lies Foot's Cray, deriving its name from the owner, in the time of the Saxons, one Godwin Fot, (*fot*, in the Saxon, signifying the same as *foot* in English,) and the river Cray that flows through the parish. It is also called *Votes Cray*, and *Foets Cray*, in ancient documents.

The high road that leads, through the centre of the country, from New Cross to Wrotham, and thence to Maidstone, Cocksheath, and the Weald of Kent traverses this district. Near the east end is a street, built on either side of the above rout, forming the village of Foot's Cray; at the east end of which, the Cray traverses the road, and, having turned a mill, directs its current towards North Cray. Foot's Cray park, almost adjoins the village on the north, near which stands the church; thence the ground rises westward, from Sidcup, half a mile distant from which spot, the parish is dreary, covered by coppice woods, and the soil poor, consisting either of gravel or cold unfertile clay. It comprises about 750 acres of land.

On the taking of Domesday Survey, it belonged to the bishop of Bayeux, and was as such entered in that record. Under King John, Robert de Crevequer held a knight's fee here, and William de Eynesford, again of the latter, subsequent to which, this property was held by the Rokesle's. Gregory of that name died, holding it under Edward I., whose son, Roger, appears to have possessed only a moiety, as the other belonged to Thomas de Warderoba. Roger de Rokesle passed his interest in the 33d of that prince to John Abel, who died holding it in the 16th of Edward II. and his son, Walter, conveyed it to Simon de Vaughan, who paid aid for it in the 20th of Edward III. He died, holding the manor of Fotis Crey, and his descendant, Hamo Vaughan, owned it on his decease, under Richard II. leaving an only daughter, Alianore, who conveyed it, in marriage, to one Warner, from whom it descended to John Warner, esq., of Foot's Cray, who was sheriff of Kent, under Henry VI. The latter family terminated in two daughters, one married to John Heron, and the other to a

Denham, when, on the division of the property, this manor fell to the former. His descendant, Christopher, in the 21st of Henry VIII., sold it to Sir Edmund Walsingham, whose descendant, Sir Francis, secretary to Elizabeth, alienated a portion of the lands to John Ellis, and the manor with the residue to Mr. John Gellibrand, of London. His descendant, Samuel, in 1694, sold it to Mr. George Perkins, of Lambeth, on whose decease it went to John Perkins, who died without issue male, when it fell to his only daughter, Mary. She carried the property in marriage to Mr. Edward Townsend, of Brockley, in Deptford; who joined with his wife in the sale of a portion of the demesne lands to Bourchier Cleve, esq., to enlarge his possessions at Foot's Cray place, after which the property went to Benjamin Harenc, esq.

However, the manor of Foot's or Votes Cray, with the residue of the lands descended to their three sons, who, in 1764, alienated the same to John Calcraft, esq. of Ingres, who died holding the estate, in 1772, when his eldest son, by will, became entitled to it, and by his trustees it was afterwards sold to Charles Stewart Minshaw, esq. who then became owner of the property.

A court-baron is held for this manor, which only extends over part of the parish. The tenants are all freeholders, and from the court rolls it appears that a portion of the lands are held by heriot service.

Foot's Cray Place is a seat erected on that part of the demesnes of the manor of Foot's Cray, sold by Sir Francis Walsingham to John Ellis, whence this estate passed to one Limen, and thence to a Smith, where it remained till the heirs of George Smith alienated it to Bourchier Cleve, of London. He caused the old mansion to be taken down, and erected, northward of the spot, an elegant freestone building, resembling that of the Earl of Westmoreland, at Mereworth, who designed the structure after one of Palladio, on the river Bacchiglione, near Venice. He also enclosed a park, which he embellished with beautiful plantations, and a canal that flows throughout the ground. This seat commanding a most extensive and diversified prospect, is now the property of Lord Bexley, formerly rendered conspicuous as minister of this country, then bearing the name of Vansittart.

Drawn by Geo. Shepherd.

Engraved by H. Adlard

FOOTS CRAY PLACE, KENT.

THE SEAT OF LORD EXLEY.

Bourchier Cleve, above mentioned, died possessing the estate in 1760, leaving by Elizabeth, his wife, one daughter, Elizabeth, who, in 1765, conveyed this seat in marriage to Sir George Yonge, bart., whose ancestor was Walter Yonge, mentioned in the visitation of Devonshire, in 1620, as younger son of the Yonge's of Berkshire, who settled in Devon under Henry VII. On the restoration of Charles II., Sir John Yonge was created a baronet, who bore for his arms *ermine on a bend, between two cotizes sable, three griffins' heads or.* In 1772 they joined in the sale of Foots Cray place, &c. to Benjamin Harenc, esq., of London, sheriff of the county in 1777, who then resided there.

Sir Thomas Pulloccil, or Pullyson, draper, lord mayor in the 26th of Elizabeth, was son of William Pulloccil, of Foot's Cray.

SIDCUP is a *hamlet* on the Maidstone road, so called from a family formerly possessed of much land here. Thomas Sedcopp owned the estate under Henry VI., who granted to Bernard Cavell a parcel of land, here called Estfield, and Groves. It now consists of a small street, with an inn much resorted to, and some gentlemen's houses, the principal of which belonged to Christopher Hull, esq. who died in 1790, and devised his interest therein to his nephew, of the same name, by whom it was let to Lady Hardy.

No *parochial charities* exist here.

This parish is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Dartford. The church stands at the back of the village, northward, and close to Foot's Cray park: it is a mean structure, containing two aisles and a chancel, with a low spire steeple at the west end, and is apparently of great antiquity. It is dedicated to All Saints.

Among the monuments are, in the chancel, a gravestone for John, infant son of Sir Robert Marsham, obiit 1682; a brass plate, and black letter inscription, for Thomas Myton, rector, 1489; and on the south side a memento for William Smith, rector, 1765. In the north chancel, under an arch, the figures of a man in armour, and his wife, representing, according to Philipott, Sir Simon de Vaughan and his lady, which were entire when Robert Glover made his collections of the

Kentish monuments. In the east window of the principal chancel are these arms, being very ancient. *A chevron gules between three mullets, pierced sable, impaling argent a saltier engrailed azure,* bearing the arms of Abell.

The advowson of this church was part of the possessions of the priory of St. Mary Overy, Southwark, under Edward I., and appears to have been part of that moiety for which the prior paid aid in the 20th of Edward III. The patronage continued vested in the prior till the dissolution, when, becoming part of the royal revenues, it has so continued, the king remaining patron of the rectory.

In the 15th of Edward I. this church was valued at 100 shillings. It is a discharged living in the king's books, of the yearly value of £42 17 0, the yearly tenths being 16s. 4d.

By virtue of a *commission of Inquiry* in 1650, issuing out of Chancery, it was returned that Foot's Cray was a sequestered parsonage, with a house and seven acres of land, worth £35 per annum, at which period one Master May was preacher there.

In 1821 there were forty dwellings in the parish of Sidcup; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 85, females 136, making a total of 221 souls.

North Cray is the next parish northeastward; so called from the river Cray, and its situation being northernmost of the three parishes before enumerated. North Cray and Ruxley formerly ranked as two distinct parishes, and so continued till united by Cardinal Pole, in 1557.

This parish is pleasant and healthy, occupying a gravelly soil, and the neighbourhood fashionably frequented. The high road from the Crays, justly styled *the garden of this part of Kent,* and Orpington, to Bexley, traverses the village of North Cray, wherein is a neat residence, called *Wollet hall,* formerly the property of Neighbour Frith, esq. of London, who, in 1776, devised it to his nephew, the Rev. Edward Cockayn, who assumed the name of Frith; after which it passed to Mr. Trimmer, who resided there.

The Cray takes its source on the eastern side of this parish,

and having passed the gardens of North Cray place, Woolet hall, and Vale Mascall, there forms a cascade, and flows on to Bexley.

Southward is *the manor house of Ruxley*, standing upon an eminence, above the thirteenth milestone, on the route to Farningham; and, from the foundations in the farm-yard, the old dwelling appears to have been a large pile suitable to the eminent families once residents there. The existing structure is a neat dwelling, which was, some years back, much improved by Mr. James Bedell, then occupant of the premises.

The estate was given by the Conqueror to the bishop of Bayeux, and is so entered in Domesday record. Of the estates of North and Paul's Cray, the latter was held by the same owner as the former, namely, Anchitillus de Ros; after which they were separated, and still remain two distinct manors.

Under Richard I., North Cray was held by a family seated in Rokesle, now Ruxley, which thence assumed its name. Malgerius de Rokesle lived there under the Conqueror, whose descendant, Sir John, accompanied Richard to Palestine. He died holding these estates, which descended to his grandson, Gregory, of considerable fame in his time, having been several times lord mayor of London, keeper of the king's Exchange, and assay master of the Mint: he was a great benefactor to the Grey Friars. He died, and was interred in the choir of the church of the above fraternity, but his tomb has long been defaced. His son, Sir Richard, was a man of high account, having served the office of seneschal and governor of Poictou and Montreal, in Picardy, in the 1st of Edward II., and bore for his arms a coat similar to that of the Leyborne's, namely, *A fess gules, between six lions rampant;* but that coat was not borne by all the branches of this house, as John de Rokesle, grandson of Gregory, lord of Lullingstone manor, bore *A cross, and in the dexter quarter a rook*, as appears by his gravestone in that church. Sir Richard married Joane, sister of John de Criol, and left two daughters, of whom, Agnes, the elder, espoused Thomas de Poynings; and Joan, Hugh de Pateshul; notwithstanding which, upon his death, North Cray descended to the younger branch of the Rokesle's, being, in the 20th of Edward III., held by Roger de Rokesle, jun., who paid aid for

it as half a knight's fee, in Crey. He seems to have died without issue, when the manor devolved to Poynings, as next of kin, whose descendant, Robert, son of Richard, by Isabel, daughter of Robert lord Fitzpain, died the 25th of Henry VI., holding Rokesle and North Cray. He left Alianore, wife of Sir Henry Percy, his heir, who possessed her inheritance, part of which was North Cray; but the manor of Rokesle went to Robert, only surviving son of Robert de Poynings. The noble family of Percy derives its descent from Mainfred de Perci, who came from Denmark to Normandy.

William de Perci, his lineal descendant, arrived in England with the Conqueror, having had the surname of Gernon, or Algernon; and being in high favor with the king, through his bounty, he enjoyed vast possessions in this realm. His descendant, William, had four sons, who died without offspring; and two daughters, Maud, married to William earl of Warwick, who died without issue; and Agnes, to Josceline de Loraine, younger son of Godfrey duke of Brabant, who, on their father's death, under Henry I., became his heirs. Agnes, prior to her union, covenanted that her husband should either bear the arms of Percy, *Azure, five fusils in fess, or,* and omit his own; or continue his own arms, and assume the surname of Percy to him and his posterity for ever. He chose the latter, and bore the arms of Brabant, *Or, a lion rampant, azure*; from which union sprang the Percy's, earls of Northumberland, who subsequently became so illustrious in the annals of this kingdom. In a direct line was descended Henry lord Percy, of Alnwick, present as Marshal of England at the coronation of Richard II., who was made Earl of Northumberland; and in the 7th of the same prince, knight of the Garter. In the long succession of the Percy's this manor continued, to the period of Henry VIII., when Henry, sixth earl of Northumberland, in the 2d year of the above prince, granted all his manors, &c. to the king on the failure of heirs of his body, which proving the case, as he died in the year ensuing, North Cray was, in consequence, granted by Henry VIII. in his 36th year, to Sir Roger Cholmley, with the rectory, &c., to hold *in capite.*

Sir Roger only held the estate two years, having alienated the property to Sir Martin Bowes, who died in the 9th of Elizabeth, and was succeeded in this manor by his son,

William Bowes, who held it *in capite*. He died, leaving two daughters, Elizabeth married to William Buggin, and Anne to Sir Edward Fowler, who, in right of their wives, held the estates; and on the partition of their inheritance in 1634, this manor, &c., fell to William Buggin, whose descendant, John, sold the property, in 1710, to Thomas D'Aeth, esq., afterwards created a baronet in 1716. He joined with his elder son, Narborough, in 1738, in the sale of the manor and advowson, with the mansion called North Cray place, &c., to Jeffry Hetherington, esq., who resided there. He dying in 1767, devised his estates to his brother, the Rev. William Hetherington, a gentleman of universal benevolence, who died in 1778, unmarried; and, by will, left this property, with his other estates, to Thomas Coventry, esq., of the same ancestry as the earls of that name.

There is a court-leet and court-baron held for this manor, the custom of which is for the jury in the leet to present two persons to the lord or his steward to serve the office of constable of North Cray, of whom one is elected. In the court-baron the tenants are all freeholders.

Robert Poynings, carver and sword bearer to Jack Cade, after receiving pardon for being concerned in that rebellion, raised another commotion in this place in the 32d year of the same reign of Henry VI.

Rokesle or Ruxley, as previously mentioned, was a *distinct parish* from North Cray until united by Cardinal Pole in 1557. This as well as North Cray was part of the property of the Bishop of Bayeux, and so entered in Domesday record.

Malgerius, from residing here, assumed the name of Rokesle, and notwithstanding the disgrace of Odo, continued to hold the property though the fee was granted to Hugh de Crevequer, who held it *in capite*, as of the castle of Dover, making part of the barony of Crevequer, and he held it *in capite* by barony of the king. Of him it was again held by Malgerius de Rokesle, in whose family it descended down to Sir Richard Rokesle, who, in the reign of Edward II., died without issue male, leaving two daughters, the eldest of whom married Thomas de Poynings, and the youngest Sir William le Baud, who, in her right, possessed this manor, and their son, Sir William Baud, died in the 50th of Edward III., possessed

of this estate. Richard de Poynings, his next heir, died also holding this manor in the 11th of Richard II., whose eldest son, Richard, died during his life, when his youngest son became entitled to this manor, and died possessed of it in the 9th of Edward IV. After the decease of his son, Sir Edward Poynings, this manor escheated to the crown, and was granted by Henry VIII. to Thomas Cromwell, earl of Essex, upon whose attainder and execution, again reverting to the king, it was by him granted to Sir Martin Bowes, and descended in the same line of ownership as North Cray, to Sir Narborough d'Aeth, who, in 1746, conveyed them to Jeffry Hetherington, esq. He died unmarried in 1778, and demised this estate to Thomas Coventry, esq. of North Cray place, who possessed the same.

The ancient structure of the church of Rokesley is still standing, at a small distance from the manor house; it has been many years made use of as a barn; in the chancel there yet remain two confessionary stalls, with mitred arches, and, near them, a receptacle for holy water.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

Mount Mascall is situated in that part of the parish of North Cray near Bexley. This seat, which stands on an eminence, has a double avenue of trees in front, down to the road, being built on part of the lands anciently belonging to a mansion which stood two fields southward, and although now almost unknown, was once of some note, being called Jacket's court, from the owners who resided there; and Philipott, it appears, saw an old roll of Kentish arms, wherein one Jacket, of Jacket's court, stood recorded.

From that family it went by sale to one Switzer, a name of long standing in this neighbourhood, one of whom, in the reign of Elizabeth, conveyed it to Edward Cooke, of Lesnes abbey, who left two sons, Lambert and George.

Lambert, the eldest, was of Mount Mascall, but died without issue; George, the second, was of Bexley, and left two sons, of whom, George, the eldest, was of Mount Mascall, which he passed away, together with Jacket's court, to Sir John Leman. He alienated the property to William Wiffin, whose daughter conveyed it in marriage to Thomas Bayles, and he passed it by sale to Sir Thomas Fitch, of Eltham. The latter died possessed of both Mount Mascall and Jacket's court in 1688, and

Drawn by G. Shepherd.

Engraved by H. Adlard.

NORTH CRAY COTTAGE.

KENT.

THE RESIDENCE OF THE MARCHIONESS OF LONDONDERRY

left one son, Sir Comport Fitch, who died in 1720, leaving an only daughter, who, in 1740, carried them in marriage to Sir John Barker, bart. of Sproughton, in Suffolk. He died possessed of them in 1757, leaving one son, Sir John Fitch Barker, bart., who died without issue, when Lady Barker, at her husband's death, possessed this manor and Jacket's court by her marriage settlement. Having subsequently espoused Philip Brooke, esq., and surviving her son, Sir John Fitch Barker, above mentioned, she died in 1771, devising this estate to Isabella, Elizabeth, and Thurland, the three daughters of her second husband by a former wife, when they joined in the sale of the estate to John Maddocks, esq., who died possessed of it in 1794.

VALE MASCALL is a small seat that stands at the end of the avenue of trees leading to Mount Mascall, on the opposite side of the road, near the river, which is there elegantly disposed, as well as the grounds adjoining.

The whole of this district has, within the last fifty years, become studded, as it were, with villas, ornamented cottages, and fanciful habitations of every description, to enumerate which would too much extend the limits prescribed in the completion of our labour. We cannot, however, omit to mention the residence of the late Lord Castlereagh, who, from a mere cottage, made his mansion at North Cray a most desirable spot, which is now rendered conspicuous, as having witnessed the final catastrophe attending that once public character.

NORTH CRAY is in the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Dartford. The church, dedicated to St. James, is a small building, with a low spire at the west end. The following inscriptions are in this edifice: in the chancel, on a gravestone, a memorial for Josias Bull; another for Charles Weale; a tomb for Jonathan Read; and a mural monument for Elizabeth, daughter of William Bowes.

In the 15th of Edward I., the church of North Cray was valued at ten marks, and that of Rokesley at eight. This rectory was estimated in the king's books at £13 19 9½, the yearly tenths being 17s. 11½d.

In 1821 there were forty-two dwellings in the parish of North Cray; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers

of inhabitants were as follow: males 129, females 116, making a total of 245 souls.

Bexley is the next parish, and written in ancient deeds *Bekesley*, having derived its name from the words *Bec* or *Beke*, signifying a stream, and *ley*, a pasture. It is written in Domesday *Bix*, in the *Textus Roffensis*, *Bixle*, and now *Bexley*.

This parish is very extensive, being about three miles across either way; there is much hill and dale, the whole interspersed with coppice wood; the most predominant soil is gravel mixed with clay, a great portion is poor and barren, excepting in the vale near the river. Westward of Dartford heath are the several seats of Lamienby, Blendon, and Danson, with the small hamlets of Hurst, Halfway Street, Bridgen, Upton, and Walling, or indeed more properly Well end, which name was given to it from the safe arrival of travellers who had escaped the danger of being robbed on Shooter's hill. Among the woods at the western extremity is Blackfen manor, which belonged to Mr. Richard Day. At the southern bounds of the parish are the seats of Mount and Dale Mascall; and at the northern, that of *Hall place;* beyond which it extends to the high London road, to Dover, which crosses Bexley heath for a mile in length. The several high roads from the Crays, Dartford heath, Eltham, and the London road at Bexley heath, and Crayford, lead through the village of Bexley, situated at the eastern part of the parish, in the valley, on the banks of the Cray. From its size and populous neighbourhood, it may well be styled the town of Bexley. In the several hamlets around are many handsome ornamented cottages and modern-built houses, inhabited by genteel families of fortune; the church standing at the east end. Still farther eastward is the Manor place, which has for many years been made use of only as a farm-house; and opposite the church, southward, stood the parsonage, a large and curious old timbered building, now pulled down.

The river Cray flows through the centre of this village, and passing under a brick bridge, (erected by the subscription of the neighbouring gentry,) it passes by the late Mr. Thorpe's garden, to those of Hall place, a little above which it receives a small brook that rises above Lamienby, and having passed through Blendon Paddock, crosses the Eltham road on its way

hither, where it joins the river Cray, just below Bourne place. Hence the river flows by Hall place, and then by the farm of Wantsum, belonging to Shovel Blackwood, esq., to Crayford; and where, it may not be improper to observe, the manor of Bexley claims over this river on its entrance into the parish, from North Cray, till within one field of Crayford bridge.

Cenulph king of Mercia gave to Wilfred archbishop of Canterbury ten plough lands; and in Domesday survey this place is entered under the general title of that prelate's lands in this county.

This manor remained part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury till archbishop Cranmer, in the reign of Henry VIII., granted it to that monarch.

The manor of Bexley remained vested in the crown till granted by James I., *in fee,* to Sir John Spelman, who soon after conveyed it to that great antiquary, William Camden, esq., clarencieux at arms, who, in addition to devoting his pen to the service of the learned world, endowed it also with the chief part of his fortune, by founding an *historical lecture* in the university of Oxford.

He by deed, in the 19th year of the same reign, made over his right in this manor to the chancellor, masters, and scholars of Oxford, with this proviso, that the profits, computed to be of the yearly value of £400, should be enjoyed by Mr. William Heather, and his heirs, for ninety-nine years, from the death of the donor, during which time the possessor should pay to the professor of history, in Oxford, £140 per annum, and after the expiration of the above term, the whole estate should be vested in the university.

Mr. Camden died in 1623, on which the fee of this manor became vested in the university, subject to Mr. Heather's term of ninety-nine years, who parted with his interest to Sir Francis Leigh, of Addington, in Surrey. His great grandson, Francis Leigh, of Hawley, possessed this manor when the term expired, and had a lease granted of the same by the university, for twenty-one years, at the annual rent of £140; which has since been renewed from time to time. Francis Leigh died in 1734, possessed of this lease, as also his son, in 1774, without issue, who bequeathed his interest to his nephew, Richard,

only son of his brother, Richard Leigh, esq., deceased, who became the lessee of the same.

A court-leet is held for this manor.

HIGH-STREET HOUSE is a seat, standing in the village of Bexley, near the churchyard. It appears to have been a mansion of some note, and formerly in the possession of the Goldwell's; from which name it passed to that of the Austen's, of Hall place, Sir Robert Austen having died possessed of it in 1666. His widow then retired to this residence with her younger children, and died in 1687, being succeeded by her third son, Edward, whose son, John, died possessed of it in 1750, when his two sisters becoming his heirs, they joined in the sale of the property to John Thorpe, esq., whose family had been of eminence in this county for some generations. Edward Thorpe was of Rolvenden in the reign of Henry VII., one of whose descendants, Dr. John Thorpe, M.D. and F.R.S., was of Rochester, a very learned and indefatigable antiquary; he died in 1750, leaving an only son, John Thorpe, esq., above mentioned, who purchased this estate. He was also well versed in ancient and natural history, and died in 1792, leaving two daughters, Elizabeth, married to John Meggison, of Morpeth; and the youngest, to Cuthbert Potts, esq. of London; on a division of whose inheritance the estate of High Street house became the property of Mrs. Potts.

LAMIENBY, now generally called *Lamaby*, is a seat in this parish, situated about two miles westward from Bexley church, between the hamlets of Hurst and Halfway street. It once belonged to a family called Lamienby, or *Sparrow*, the last of which name was Thomas Sparrow, who died in 1513. He left a daughter, who carried this seat in marriage to James Goldwell, descended from the family of that name in Great Chart.

A good house was by him erected here, which became, at length, the property of his grandson, John, who, in the reign of Charles I., resided here. One of his descendants sold this seat to one James, and John James passed it away to Nicholas Warren, esq., who conveyed it to Thomas Foster, and he, in 1744, passed it by sale to William Steele, esq., who rebuilt this seat, and made the park. His son dying without issue, it passed to his sisters, one of whom parted with her interest

therein to Robert Dingley, esq., and the other three sold their respective shares to Mr. Michael Lejay, of London, who bequeathed them by will to Anthony Chamier, esq., who died in 1780. The family of the Dingley's possessed their portions of this estate till the Rev. Robert Dingley, in 1783, alienated his fourth part to David Orme, esq. M.D., the purchaser of the other moieties, who then became possessed of the whole, and made many additions to this seat, where he occasionally resided.

BLENDON HALL, written in old deeds *Bladindon court*, stands in the hamlet of Bridgen, and was anciently in the possession of Jordan de Bladindon, a name which, in process of time, became corrupted into Blendon. He, in the reign of Richard II., passed it away to the Walsingham's, in which family it continued till the latter end of the reign of Henry IV., when it passed by sale to the Ferbie's, of Paul's Cray hill, one of whose descendants, under Henry VI., conveyed it to William Marshall, who alienated it to the Rawlins's. In that name it continued for some generations, when passing to the May's, it was, in the reign of Charles I., conveyed to the family of Wroth, John Wroth, esq. having died in 1671, from whom this estate descended to his son, Sir John Wroth, bart., subject to a mortgage term of 1000 years, granted by his father.

In 1672, Edward Bremster owned the residue of this term, and took possession of Blendon hall, and in 1673 conveyed his interest to Sir Edward Brett. He died in 1684, without issue, and devised his interest to John, first son of Henry Fisher; in pursuance of which, he assumed the name of Brett, and resided at Blendon hall. He died without issue in 1732, and devised this manor to Jacob Sawbridge, who died in 1748, and was succeeded by his son, James, who, in 1763, conveyed it by sale to Lady Mary Scott, when it continued in that family down to William Scott, esq. who resided some time at Blendon, and afterwards at Canterbury.

Near Blendon hall is a seat called *Bridgen place*, from its situation in this hamlet, built by William Cope, esq. who resided there.

DANSON HILL is a manor and seat adjoining the high Dover road, in the northern part of this parish. It was formerly called the manor of *Daunson*, or *Daunsington*, and, in the reign

of Elizabeth, belonged to Mathew Parker, second son of the archbishop of Canterbury, who dying without issue, devised it to the archbishop. He gave it to his son, John, in 1574, when, by a fine levied, it came into the possession of John Styleman, of London, who died possessed of it in 1734, bequeathing the moiety of this estate, (then let to John Selwyn, esq.) for ever, in trust, for the charities mentioned in his bequest. This moiety, in which Daunson and the lands round it were included, was afterwards let to Mr. John Boyd, who, in the 2d of George III., in pursuance of an agreement made by him with the trustees of this estate, procured an Act for vesting a rent charge of £100 per annum, for the benefit of certain poor families, described in the will, in lieu of the moiety of the lands devised therein for that purpose, and for vesting the moiety, in fee simple, to him and his heirs. Soon after, Mr. Boyd erected, on an eminence about a quarter of a mile from the old seat, a most elegant mansion of Portland stone, the inside of which is decorated in a magnificent style, on which he conferred the name of Danson hill. Behind the house is a fine sheet of water, so contrived as to appear a beautiful serpentine river, flowing through the grounds; the whole having been designed and executed by the famous *Capability* Browne, who also laid out the adjoining grounds with great taste and skill. In 1775 Mr. Boyd was created a baronet.

Brampton hall is a seat at the northern boundaries of this parish, near the high London road, and was formerly the property of Austin Parke Goddard, esq., who alienated it to Mr. Peter Warren, of London. He resided here, and died possessed of the property in 1772, leaving it to his son, Mr. Alport Peter Warren. This seat was long the residence of William Edmeades, esq., now of Nursted court, (an honourable family known at the latter places for some centuries); it was afterwards sold to Mr. Francis Vanhagen, of London; is now the property of Frederick Vanhagen, esq. The gardens of Brampton are extensive, including upwards of 100 feet of hot houses, graperies, &c., and the eastern front of the mansion is much admired. The house is large and commodious, and the prospect it commands on one side in particular very extensive.

Hall place is an ancient and stately mansion, standing in the northern part of this parish, near Crayford. It was anci-

ently the inheritance of a family which thence assumed its name, being called *At Hall*, the last of whom was Thomas at Hall, who, in the reign of Edward III., conveyed it to Thomas Shelle, of Gaysum, in Westerham, in whose family it continued down to Thomas Shelley, who resided and died here in the reign of Henry VI.; and his son, William, passed this manor away to Sir John Champneis, in the reign of Henry VIII. His son, Justinian, possessed this estate in the reign of Elizabeth, when, in that of Charles I., it was conveyed to Robert Austen, esq., who left four sons, the eldest of whom, John, succeeded him. Sir Robert Austen died in 1666, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir John Austen, bart. who resided here, as did his son, Sir Robert, who left three sons. Sir Robert, the eldest, succeeded his father, and resided at Hall place, where he died in 1743; and after descending to many of that name, the last dying without issue, the fee of this seat and estate became vested in Francis lord le Despencer, who died possessed of it in 1781, and devised it to Francis Dashwood, who continued the owner; but the mansion was occupied as a school for young gentlemen.

At a small distance from Hall place, on the road leading hence to Crayford, is a seat, called *Mount Pleasant*, built by Richard Simms, esq. of Blackheath, on his marriage with one of the sisters of Sir Robert Austen, who died in 1743. By her he left an only daughter, who carried her interest therein in marriage to Granado Piggott; when it was subsequently sold to Thomas Edsall, esq., who becoming a bankrupt in 1778, the remainder of his term was disposed of to William Selwyn, esq. who resided there; but the inheritance belonged to Francis Dashwood, esq.

BOURNE PLACE is a small but elegant house, standing at no great distance from Hall place, near the spot where the bourne or rivulet which flows from Lamienby joins the river Cray. It was erected, many years back, by Laurence Holker, esq. of London, who, from its situation, named it *Bourne place*, and afterwards resided there. Mr. Holkar, an eminent practitioner in the law, died unmarried in 1793, when this property devolved to his niece, Mrs. Potts, of London.

BEXLEY is in the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and, being a peculiar, in the *deanery* of

Shoreham. The handsome altarpiece was given by Mr. Benjamin Huntington, vicar, A.D. 1705. On the south side of the chancel is a confessionary, consisting of three divisions of pointed arches, and a recess for holy water; on the north side are seven ancient stalls of oak, ornamented with Gothic mouldings and carved ornaments; and on the uppermost stall was carved an antique shield, bearing *three pikes,* or *Pisees lucii naiant,* being the arms of the Lucy's.

In this church are the following memorials: in the south aisle, a mural monument for John Styleman, esq. of London; in the north aisle, a monument for John Hater, esq.; a mural tomb for Edward Austen; and another for Sir Edward Brett. A mural tomb for Sir John Champneis, with numerous others for that family, as well as the Austen's; and gravestones for the Hereworth's, the Shelley's, the Bunton's, the Bishoppe's, the Gerard's, and the Cosein's. A mural monument for Mr. Benjamin Huntington, vicar of Bexley; a gravestone for Sir Richard Ford; and a stone, with an inscription, for Thomas Sparrow, of Bexley.

In the churchyard lies interred the Rev. Nicholas Frankwell, vicar; there is also an altar-tomb for Elizabeth Cook, spinster, of Mount Mascall; and many others, which have mouldered away.

In the 15th of Edward I. this church was valued at thirty marks, and the vicarage at ten, which latter was estimated in the king's books at £13 4 7, the yearly tenths being £1 6 5½.

In 1821 there were 403 dwellings in the parish of Bexley; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 1164, females 1147, making a total of 2311 souls.

THE HUNDRED OF CODSHEATH,

WITH THE

PARISH AND VILLE OF BRASTED.

THE hundred of CODSHEATH lies southward from that of Axtane, and is written in ancient records CODSEDE.

The honour of Otford claims over the whole of this hundred, and was part of the ancient possessions of the see of Canterbury, where it continued till granted, as an appendage to that manor, by Archbishop Cranmer, to Henry VIII., in his 29th year, as will be hereafter mentioned. It contains the parishes of SHOREHAM, HALSTED, OTFORD, KEMSING, SEALE, SEVENOAK, CHEVENING in part, SUNDRIDGE and WOODLAND in KINGSDOWN, and the churches of those parishes; also part of the parishes of LYGHE and SPELDHURST, the churches of which are in another hundred.

SHOREHAM lies the next parish southward from Lullingstone; in the *Textus Roffensis* it is written *Schorham.*

This parish is watered by the river Darent, which flows through the centre. The village of Shoreham, by no means small, is situated on both sides of the river, over which are two bridges, nearly at the southern boundary, next to Otford, with the church and seat of New House on the eastern side. Hence the chalk hills rise, where the soil is barren, and much covered with flints. Towards the western boundaries are the two small hamlets of Romney street and Thimbling bottom; in the south part are the estates of Sepham and Filston; and in the northern, close to the river, those of Preston and Shoreham, otherwise Lullingstone castle. About a mile westward from the former is the manor of *Cockhurst*, the property of Sir John Dyke.

The high road from Dartford, through Farningham and Eynsford, towards Sevenoak, runs along the hills on the eastern

side of this parish, about a quarter of a mile from the village of Shoreham, which, having no high road of any public description, is but little frequented by travellers, and the turnpike road being wholly chalk and stones, is by no means pleasant for travelling.

A fair is held here, on the 1st of May, for pedlary.

The manor was part of the ancient possessions of the archbishop of Canterbury, and conveyed to Henry VIII. in exchange for other premises. It remained in the crown till the death of Charles I., when the Parliament seized on the royal revenues to supply the necessities of the State, when it was sold to John Singleton, with whom it remained till the Restoration; and again returning to the crown, continued as an appendage to the honour of Otford.

The dean and chapter of Rochester possesses, by purchase from the crown, a feefarm of £20 14 5 yearly rent from this manor.

Near the entrance into the parish, southward from Lullingstone, lies PRESTON, adjoining the river Darent. This place was formerly accounted an appendage to the manor of Halsted, and, as such, was held of the archbishop of Canterbury.

In the reign of Edward III., Preston was in the possession of Sir Thomas de Buckland, whose ancestors owned considerable property in this county, having borne for their arms, *Argent, an eagle, sable, beaked and unguled, or.* His descendant, Thomas, in the reign of Henry VI., left an only daughter Alice, who conveyed this estate in marriage to John Polley, or Polhill, of Polhill street, in Detling. He had three sons, the eldest of whom, John, resided at Preston, when one of his descendants passed away Preston by sale to Paul D'Aranda, esq., who died possessed of it in 1712. His son, in 1715, sold this estate to John Barrett, esq., in which family it descended down to Thomas Barrett, esq., in whom it was ultimately vested.

SHOREHAM CASTLE, formerly called Lullingstone, is situated close to the river Darent, nearly adjoining the pales of Lullingstone park. To this castle there was a manor appendant, called the *manor of Lullingstone castle,* of which Hugo de Poyntz died possessed in the 1st of Edward II. In the 20th

of Edward III., Sir Roger de Chaundois paid aid for the manor of Lullingstone castle, as one knight's fee, which Hugo de Poyntz had before held of the archbishop of Canterbury. In the 3d and 4th of Philip and Mary, Roger Newborough had possession granted of this manor or castle of Lullingstone, otherwise le Castell, holding it of the king *in capite*, by knight's service, of the honour of Otford. In the 17th of Elizabeth John Newborough levied a fine of these premises, and passed them by sale to Thomas Polhill, of Preston, whose descendant John, sold this estate to Paul D'Aranda, esq., whose eldest son conveyed both castle and manor, in 1715, to John Barrett, esq., in whose son they became vested.

Shoreham castle, as it is now called, has been long in ruins; Leland tells us it was so in his time, under Henry VIII. The present farm-house seems to have been built out of the ruins.

Filston, formerly written *Vielston*, is a manor here, situated about a quarter of a mile southward from the village of Shoreham. It was anciently held of the archbishop of Canterbury, by the Clare's, earls of Gloucester and Hertford. In 1264, under Henry III., a composition was entered into between Archbishop Boniface and Richard de Clare, in relation to the customs and services, when it was agreed that the earl should do homage, and the service of one knight's fee for this manor of Vielston. This manor was again held of the earl of Clare, under Henry III., by a family which thence derived its surname.

Hamon de Vielstan possessed it in the above reign, and demised several parcels of land in this parish to Sepham, of Sepham, Timberden, of Timberden, and others. In the reign of Edward III. it appears to have been vested in the crown, when it passed to Sir Reginald de Cobham, who died possessed of this estate in the 35th of that reign. It continued in the latter family till carried by a female heir in marriage to Sir Edward Borough, whence it became alienated to Robert Blague, and from him to a Petley, one of whose descendants sold it to John Barrett, esq. of New house, in this parish, and his grandson Thomas ultimately possessed the same.

Sepham is an estate here, now called *Up Sepham*, and lies about half a mile southward from Filston, having formerly had owners of that name, being an eminent family of long standing,

one of whom, William de Sepham, died possessed of it in the 25th of Edward III., as also the estate of Planers. They bore for their arms, *Sable, three cinque-foils, argent, between seven cross crosslets fitchee of the second;* which coat is still remaining on the roof of the cloisters of Canterbury cathedral.

After this family had continued owners of both these estates, one by purchase, the other by descent, they were, in the reign of Henry VIII., demised by sale to Francis Sandback, whose daughter carried them in marriage to David Polhill, esq., and his direct descendant, Charles Polhill, esq., of Chepsted, afterwards owned the same.

SHOREHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and, being a peculiar, is within its own *deanery* of Shoreham. The several parishes having been part of the ancient possessions of the see of Canterbury, are exempt from the jurisdiction of the bishop of the diocese in which they lie, and as such are peculiar to the jurisdiction of the archbishop only, whence they have acquired the name of the *archbishop's peculiars*, all such being within the *deanery* of Shoreham, and subject only to his prerogative.

The church of Shoreham is situated on the east side of the village, on rising ground, being a neat building of brick, dedicated to Sts. Peter and Paul.

Among other memorials are the following: at the west end, inscriptions for the Rutter's, the Cowell's, the Wells's, the Everest's, and the Perry's; and a mural tomb for Anne, daughter of John Barrett, &c. A gravestone, with an inscription in brass for Mr. Thomas Polhill, another for the wife of Edward Barrett, esq., and a third for Paul D'Aranda, esq., with several more for the family of the Polhill's. A beautiful monument, executed by Sir H. Cheere, for John Barrett, esq., and, on the south of the altar, a large elegant memento for Sir Abraham Shard.

The church of Otford is a chapel to that of Shoreham.

In the 15th of Edward I. the church was valued at fifty marks.

By the *commission of Inquiry*, in 1650, it was returned that Shoreham was a parsonage valued at £100 per annum; it is a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear value of £45, the yearly tenths being £1 8 8.

In 1821 there were 162 dwellings in the parish of Shoreham; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 438, females 453, making a total of 891 souls.

Westward from Shoreham is the parish of HALSTED, which takes its name from its high situation, *quasi altus locus*, a place on an eminence.

This parish lies among the hills, and contains about 900 acres of land, whereof about eighty are wood. The soil is chalk and clay, much covered with flints. The Place house, with the church near, is situated about half a mile westward from the high London road, leading through Farnborough, towards Sevenoak, at the distance of about eighteen miles from London, on which is a hamlet called Locks Bottom. The village of Halsted stands about a mile from the church, southward of which the parish is bounded by a large coppice wood, extending nearly as far as Madamscott hill, the whole being a lonely situation.

This place was, in very early times, owned by a family of the name of Malavil, which held it of the archbishop of Canterbury. They bore for their arms, *Gules, a lion passant guardant, or, crowned, argent*, the same being now quartered by the family of the Dering's. William de Malevill held this seat in the reign of Henry III., soon after which it passed to the family of the Chelsfield's. In the reign of Edward III. it was owned by Ralph Savage, and at the latter end of the same reign it was the property of William Burys, whose descendant, William, in the reign of Henry VI., died possessed of Halsted in 1444.

It then passed to Thomas Bourchier, archbishop of Canterbury, who died in 1486, and devised this manor to his kinsman, Sir Thomas Bourchier, the younger, whose descendant, Alice, conveyed it in marriage to William, son of Richard Petley.

In his descendants it continued down to Thomas Petley, who, in the 17th of Elizabeth, passed it away by sale to Sir Thomas Watson, whose only daughter carried it in marriage to Sir William Pope, of Wilcot, in Oxon, afterwards created

Baron Pope, of Belturbet, and earl of Downe, in the kingdom of Ireland. His grandson passed away this manor, with the seat called Halsted Court lodge, to Mr. Edward Ashe, of Heytesbury, in Wiltshire, whose descendant sold the estate to one Lansdell, who conveyed this manor to trustees for the use of Lord Vere Beauclerk, third son of Charles, first duke of St. Albans. He died in 1781, and the late duke, in 1793, alienated this manor to Mr. William Brooke, of this parish.

The mansion house, or court lodge of the manor, formerly called Halsted court, but now Halsted place, were in 1755 sold by Lord Vere to Robert Bagshaw, who, some time after, passed them to Ralph Foley, esq., one of whose descendants resided at Halsted place for some years, when it was sold to John Sargent, esq., who died in 1791, and again passed it by sale to Arnold Arnold, esq., who at that time resided there.

HALSTED is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and being a *peculiar* of the archbishop, is within the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church, dedicated to St. Margaret, consists of one aisle and a chancel, with a small chapel on the north side, and a pointed steeple.

Sir Thomas Watson, lord of the manor of Halsted, was a great benefactor to this church. In 1609 he rebuilt from the ground the chapel, of freestone, on the north side, and adorned the east end with curious painted glass, richly ornamented, but now destroyed. He likewise new built the steeple with stone, from the ground, and repaired and new tiled the church and chancel, with various other improvements.

Among other monuments are the following: in the aisle a gravestone, with the figure of a man, and a greyhound at his feet, for William Burgo, formerly lord of Halsted, and a monument for Thomas Holt; on the south side a gravestone, with the figures of a man and woman in brass, and an inscription in black letter for William Petley. Philipott supposes this to be the memorial of William de Chellesfield.

It is a rectory in the patronage of the archbishop of Canterbury, being part of the ancient possessions of that see.

In the 15th of Edward I. it was valued at 100 shillings.

By the *commission of Inquiry*, in 1650, it was returned that Halsted was a parsonage, with a house and barn, and fifty-one acres of land, valued at £30 per annum. It was rated in the

king's books at £5 17 11, the yearly tenths being 11s. 9½d. It has now only seven acres of glebe land.

In 1821 there were forty-two dwellings in the parish of Halsted; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 133, females 110, making a total of 243 souls.

Otford lies next to Halsted, called in Saxon, *Ottanford*, in Domesday, *Otefort*, and in the *Textus Roffensis*, *Otteford*; for it may be observed that the syllable *an*, when it is the second in the Saxon name of a place, is generally left out in our modern pronunciation.

Otford parish is about nine miles in circumference, and contains about 2400 acres of land, of which about seventy are woodland. It lies for the largest part in a low damp situation, which renders it far from pleasant, giving it a gloomy appearance, and in all probability it would have been little known, had it not been for the residence of the archbishops for a length of time. In the valley there is much meadow land, and, though the rivulets and springs throughout render it very moist and marshy, it is, nevertheless, rather fertile. Towards Sevenoak the soil becomes sandy, and on the western hills entirely chalk, mixed with flint stones, being in general very barren. The river Darent runs through this district northward, being also watered by two other streams, which join the river. Hence the chalk hills rise on either side towards the east and west. The high road from Dartford to Sevenoak traverses the village of Otford, which stands at the foot of the chalk hills in the valley, not far from the eastern banks of the Darent, across which another road branches off from the village towards Chevening. At the entrance of the village from Eynsford, stood, till within some years, an ancient seat, apparently of the time of Elizabeth, which bore the appearance of the opulence of its ancient possessors. It was formerly known by the name of *Colletwell*, and for many years the residence of the family of the Petty's. From the heirs of that race it passed by sale to George Lake, whose sister, in 1790, sold it to Mr. James Martyn, who pulled down the whole, and built a good mansion on the site, where he resided. On the opposite, or

southern side, are the ruins of the archiepiscopal palace, and near them the church. Here was a seat inhabited for many years by a branch of the family of the Petley's, and another estate by the Polhill's, the site of which was afterwards in the possession of his son, Charles Polhill, esq. of Chepsted.

The liberty of the duchy of Lancaster claims over part of this parish, a fair being held on the 24th of August.

Two famous battles were fought at Otford, one in 773, by Offa, king of Mercia, and Aldric, king of Kent, when Offa gained the victory, after great slaughter on each side. The other was fought in 1016, when Edmund Ironside marched after Canute, the Danish king, whom he encountered at this place, and made a great slaughter.

The fields are full of the remains of those slain in these battles, bones being continually discovered; and, in 1767, many skeletons were found in the chalk banks on either side.

Mr. Polhill had a field in this parish, called Dane Field, which most probably was the spot whereon the last-mentioned battle with the Danes was fought.

In 791, Offa, king of Mercia, whose gifts to the British churches and monasteries were in general munificent, gave Otteford to the church of Canterbury; soon after which, one Werhard, a powerful priest, and kinsman to Archbishop Wlfrid, found means to gain possession of this property, but, by the command of the archbishop in 830, he, by his last will, restored this place, then estimated at ten hides, to the church of Canterbury, part of the possessions of which see it remained on the accession of Lanfranc, in the 4th of the Conqueror, and is entered accordingly in Domesday record.

Otford continued in the possession of this see till archbishop Cranmer, in the reign of Henry VIII., exchanged it with the king for other premises.

The lordship and seignory of Otford thus having devolved to the king, appears to have been styled the honour of Otford, there having been a high steward appointed over it, when it remained with the view of frankpledge, and the courts and law days, in the hands of the crown, at the death of Charles I. in 1648; after which they were seized by the Parliament for the use of the State.

The archbishops of Canterbury had, from the earliest ac-

counts, a HOUSE, or PALACE here, in which they resided from time to time, as appears by their frequent mandates, dated from their manor house of Otford, being a most commodious and favorite retirement. They had also for their convenience and pleasure, two large parks, and extensive woods.

Thomas Becket seems to have been greatly pleased with the retired situation of this palace, and several tales are told of the miracles he wrought while residing here; among others, that the archbishop, finding the house wanted a fit spring to water it, stuck his staff in the ground, when water immediately burst forth, which plentifully supplied the palace, and was called St. Thomas's well.

It was here the great prelate, archbishop Robert Winchelsea, entertained King Edward I., A.D. 1300, who also resided here at the period of his death, in the 6th of Edward II., at which time it appears there was a park, which extended into Seven-oak parish, as, four years afterwards, the succeeding archbishop, Walter Reynolds, had the king's licence to purchase lands in that parish, towards enlarging it, but this not being thought sufficient by one of his successors, namely Archbishop Islip, he also, by the king's licence, purchased lands and meadows in the 33d and 34th of Edward III. to effect that purpose.

Archbishop Deane, who came to the see in the 16th of Henry VII., rebuilt a great part of this mansion, notwithstanding which, his immediate successor, Archbishop Warham, thinking the house by no means adapted for his accommodation, rebuilt the whole, excepting the hall and chapel, at the expense of £33, a large sum at that time, and here he also entertained that splendid prince Henry VIII. His successor, Archbishop Cranmer, observing that this stately palace excited the envy of the courtiers, passed it away, with his other estates in this parish, in exchange with the king, as already mentioned.

After this palace became vested in the crown, Henry VIII. kept the mansion, with the two parks, and soon afterwards purchased of a descendant of Sir Edward Borough, the manor of Danehull, in this parish, formerly possessed by the Cobham's, of Sterborough, which he laid into the park; and in that state the whole continued till Edward VI., in his last year, and Queen Elizabeth, afterwards made several grants

of different parts of the estate. The former, during that year, granted the little park of Otford to Sir Henry Sidney, and the latter, in her 34th year, granted to his son, Sir Robert Sidney, the site of the honour of Otford, the archbishop's house, commonly called the castle, and the Great Park, containing 700 acres, lying in Otford, Seal, and Kemsing. In the 15th of James I., bearing the title of Lord Sidney, he was created lord viscount Lisle, and the same year, with his wife and son, conveyed the whole of the above-mentioned premises to Sir Thomas Smith, second son of Customer Smith, in whose descendants they continued down to Sir Sidney Stafford Smythe, who died in 1778, as did his wife, who by her will devised this estate, consisting of the ruins of the palace, and three farms, called the Place Great Lodge, and Greatness farms, containing about 860 acres of land, in trust, to be sold for the benefit of her nephews and nieces, which accordingly took place the next year, when Robert Parker, esq. of Maidstone, became the proprietor, in which situation they continued.

Most probably the palace was demolished, and the lands of the Great Park dilapidated soon after having been granted to Sir Thomas Smith. There is nothing now left of the structure but vast heaps of rubbish and foundations, which cover nearly an acre of ground. The present ruins were part of the outer court, the two remaining towers of which were, not many years back, two stories higher; but the roofing of the largest, which was covered with lead, falling in, the uppermost story of each was taken down.

THE MANOR OF SERGEANTS OTFORD, with the LITTLE PARK, part of those possessions likewise granted by the archbishop to Henry VIII., remained in the crown till the reign of Edward VI., who, in his 7th year, granted to Sir Henry Sidney his park, called the LITTLE PARK OF OTFORD, for the term of thirty years, which lease was renewed in the 10th of Elizabeth. After his death, his eldest surviving son, Sir Robert Sidney, by letters patent, in the 44th of the latter reign, had a grant in fee of the manor of Otford Stuyens, otherwise Sergeant's Otford, the Little Park, and other premises here, late belonging to the see of Canterbury, at the yearly rent of £30. This manor was afterwards possessed in undivided thirds by Mompesson, Hyde, and Wall. The two former sold their

shares to Sir Thomas Farnaby, bart., whose son, Sir Charles Farnaby Radcliffe, afterwards possessed them. The other third part of this manor descended from the Rev. Dr. William Wall, vicar of Shoreham, to his grandson, Mr. Sampson Waring, of Rochester, who sold it to Sir Jeffry Amherst, K.B., afterwards created lord Amherst, who continued the possessor.

But the *Little* or *Lesser Park*, lying on the north side of this parish, and parted on the west by the river from that of Shoreham, now claims the reputation of a manor, and is called OTFORD NEW PARK. It was for some years possessed by the family of Bostock, and ultimately became the property of the Rev. Stillman Bostock, of East Grensted, in Sussex.

RYE HOUSE is an estate, formerly accounted a manor, and seems, in the reign of Edward III., to have been owned by John At-Welle and Robert Williams, as they had, in the 46th year of that prince, the king's licence to assign four marks, yearly rent, issuing out of certain tenements, called Le Rye, in Otford, held of the archbishop, to Adam Fleming, chaplain, and his successors, celebrating divine offices in the chapel of Apulderfelde, for the good state of the king whilst he lived, and for his soul afterwards.

This estate afterwards passed to the name of Palmer, the ancestor to those of Bekesborne; one of that family, John Palmer, died possessed of the manor of Le Rye, in Otford, in the 2d of Richard III., whose descendant, of the same name, conveyed it by sale to Henry VIII.; and he, in his 33d year, demised it to John Walker for a term of years. After that period, the family of the Bosvile's had the fee of this estate, in which name it continued down to Henry Bosvile, esq. of Bradbourne, in Sevenoak, who dying without issue in 1761, devised this estate to his kinsman, Sir Richard Betenson, bart., who dying also without issue, it devolved, by the limitations of the same will, to Thomas Lane, esq., who afterwards possessed the property.

Sir George Harper, in the 33d of Henry VIII., conveyed to that king a messuage, called BROUGHTONS, and other premises in Otford, in exchange for lands in Essex, all which were granted by Philip and Mary to Humphrey Colwych, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service.

The family of the Polhill's afterwards owned this estate, as

David Polhill levied a fine in the 16th of Elizabeth; in whose descendants the property continued down to Charles Polhill, esq., the late owner.

Otford is in the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Rochester, and being a chapel to Shoreham, is a peculiar of the archbishop of Canterbury, and consequently in that *deanery*. The church, situated at the east end of the village, near the palace, is dedicated to St. Bartholomew, a personage of high repute here for the supposed gift of curing barrenness in women, which caused a great resort of people to his image and shrine in this church; a fair having been also held at Otford, on his anniversary. The church consists of two aisles and a chancel, with a pointed steeple at the west end.

Among the monuments are the following: in the south aisle, a mural tomb of elegant sculpture for David Polhill, esq. of Cheapstead, son of Thomas Polhill, esq. of Otford, by Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Ireton, esq., by Bridget, daughter of Oliver Cromwell; he was one of the Kentish petitioners in the reign of William III. In the south aisle, a memorial for William Sidney, esq.; in the great chancel, a magnificent monument, with the statue of a gentleman, as large as life, erect and leaning upon an urn; over him is the head of a lady in profile, with figures of statuary marble, most beautifully executed, being a memento for Charles Polhill. There are also tombs for the families of Bostock and Brasiers; with several more for that of the Polhill's. In the east window is a shield of stained glass, presenting the arms of Lennard, being *Or on a fess gules, three fleurs de lis of the field,* with quarterings in the middle, *a mullet* for difference; and at the east end of the chancel is a mural monument for George Petty.

In 1719 the curate of this church had a stipend of £20 per annum: and in 1724 the dean and chapter of Westminster augmented this curacy by £200.

In 1821 there were 115 dwellings in the parish of Otford; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 312, females 318, making a total of 630 souls.

The next parish eastward from Otford is KEMSING, called, in the *Testa de Nevill, Camesing*, and in the *Textus Roffensis*, CIMICINGA. The name of this place seems to have been given to it from some royal camp or fortress situated here.

This parish, from its situation, is not much known or frequented, nor can it be esteemed pleasant. It lies partly in the valley and partly on the chalk hills; at a small distance southward from the foot of which stands the village, at the intersection of the roads from Otford to Ightham, and from the chalk hills to the high road, by Seal Chart. Near the centre is a water called St. Edith's well; a female, said to have been born in this parish, who wrought many miracles for such as applied to her for relief. The parish is about two miles square, the soil in the northern part mostly chalk, while the southern district is very fertile. It has about 100 acres of wood; and in the eastern part is the seat of Crowdleham, situated near the boundary of the parish of Ightham.

There was a market anciently held here, on Monday, by grant from Henry III., which has long since been discontinued, and a fair still kept on Easter Monday. There was an old knightly family which derived its surname from this place, being called Kempsing, whose coat of arms was *Argent, a fess and chevron interlaced, sable;* which was quartered by the Hart's, of Lullingstone, in right of Peche, who married the heir general.

IN THE SCUTAGE, levied as well on the prelates as the rest of the barons, in the 32d of Henry II., towards the expenses of the army in Wales, the honour of Kemsing, as it is there called, then being in the king's hands, answered for twenty-nine shillings, by the hands of the sheriff of the county. Soon after which it passed into the possession of the earl of Albermarle, who held it of Walter Fitzhelt, as he again did of the king, *in capite*.

In the reign of King John, Baldwin de Betun, who had, by favor of Richard I., enjoyed the earldom of Albermarle, was owner of this place, and, in the 5th year of that reign, granted the lordships of Kemsing, Braborne, and Sutton, in this county, to William Mareschal, earl of Pembroke, with Alice, his daughter, in frank marriage.

In the reign of King John he allied himself closely to the

rebellious barons, when his lands were escheated to the crown, and this manor, then valued at £36 per annum, was granted to Fulk de Brent, on the confiscation of whose estates, and the return of the earl to his obedience, he again came into the possession of this property, having had many favors conferred on him by Henry III.; in the 7th year of whose reign, for his services against the Welsh, he had scutage of all his tenants in this and other counties. In the 10th year of that reign he married Alianore, the king's sister, by which union he greatly incurred the displeasure of the monarch; but a reconciliation being soon effected, he was again taken into favor, and in the 14th year of that reign had a confirmation of the manors of Kemsing, Braborne, and Sutton, in this county, upon condition, that in the event of Alianore, his wife, surviving him, she should enjoy them for her life. He died possessed of Kemsing, in the 15th of that reign, without issue, on which the sheriff of this county had the king's precept to make livery to Alianore, his wife, of those manors. She after seven years widowhood married Simon de Montford, earl of Leicester, and steward of England: the king himself gave her away.

In the 45th of that reign the earl of Leicester heading the discontented barons, continued with them till the battle of Evesham, where he was slain, and the Countess Alianore and her children were forced to quit England, and retire to the nunnery of Montarges, in France, where she died.

In the mean time the four brothers of William, earl of Pembroke, successively earls, dying without issue, their inheritance became devided between the heirs of their five sisters, and upon a partition of their interest in this manor, it appears to have become the sole property of Roger, eldest son of Maud, the elder sister by her husband Hugh Bigod, earl of Norfolk. Roger, earl of Norfolk, and marshal of England, died of a bruise he received at a tournament, in the reign of Henry III., leaving no issue, upon which he was succeeded in his honours as well as in the possession of this manor, by Roger, his nephew, son of Hugh, his brother. He sold the estate with the advowson of the church to Otho de Grandison, who obtained license in the 18th of that reign of *free warren* in all his demesne lands in Kemsing. He died without issue, leav-

ing, William de Grandison, his brother, his heir, who died possessed of this manor, leaving, by his wife, three sons, and four daughters.

On his demise this estate became the property of Otho, the youngest son, who paid aid for it in the 20th of Edward III., as half a knight's fee, which William de Grandison had before held in Kemsing, of the earl of Leicester. He died possessed of the estate in the 33d of that reign, leaving one son, Thomas, and a daughter; when Thomas succeeded him and was afterwards knighted, and died possessed of the property, in the 50th of Edward III., without issue, leaving his wife surviving, who also possessed it, at her decease, in the 18th of Richard II. After that period it passed to Sir William de Bryene, or Bryan, who died possessed of it in the 19th of the same reign, and lies buried in Seale church.

After his death Sir William Fynes, or Fiennes, possessed the property, having borne for his arms, *Azure three lions rampant, or.* He was son of William Fiennes, and Joane, his wife, third sister of William de Say; and, by Elizabeth, his wife, daughter of William Batisford, left two sons, Roger and James, from the former of whom descended the lords Dacres, of the South, and from the latter, viscounts Say and Seale.

James possessed this estate in the 14th of Henry VI., was sheriff of the county, and afterwards esquire of the body to that prince. In the 24th of the same monarch, being then a knight, he was in consequence of his grandmother, Joan, having been third sister of William de Say, summoned to Parliament, by the title of lord Say and Seale, and immediately after, for his services, advanced in open Parliament to the dignity of a baron; and, in the 27th of that prince, had full confirmation of the title from John lord Clinton, and of the arms of Say, which, owing to his descent from Idonea, eldest sister of William de Say, might belong to him. In consideration of this he granted to Lord Clinton, all advowsons of churches, knight's fees, &c., that belonged to the latter, by reason of the lordship of Say. He, subsequently, obtained the office of constable of Dover Castle, and warden of the Cinque ports, to him and his heirs male; was also constituted lord chamberlain, and of the king's counsel; and, the year ensuing, lord treasurer of England.

This vast accession of power increased the hatred of the

Commons, and only served to render his fall the more sudden; as he was, the year following, accused of treason, in having assented to the release of Anjou, and delivery of Maine to the French; when the king, to appease the storm, deprived him of his treasurership, and, on Jack Cade's insurrection, to mitigate the tumult, he was committed to the Tower, when the mob, entering London, conducted him to Guildhall, and there being arraigned before the lord mayor, notwithstanding his request to be judged by his peers, after hurrying him away to the standard, in Cheapside, they cut off his head, which was paraded about on a pole, and his naked body being trailed through the streets at a horse's tail into Southwark, was there hanged and quartered, though his corpse was ultimately interred in the church of the Grey Friars, in London.

He left by his wife, Emeline Cromer, one son, Sir William Fienes, who was the same year summoned to Parliament, being seized of an estate tail of the office of constable of Dover Castle, and warden of the Cinque ports, by virtue of the patent, accorded to his father, which he afterwards sold to Humphry, duke of Buckingham, and his heirs male.

In the struggle between the houses of York and Lancaster, he staked not only his person but entire fortune, and was compelled to sell and mortgage the bulk of his estates. He married Margaret, daughter of William Wickham, founder of New College, Oxford. The lands being thus alienated, the barony lay dormant, and the heirs male were only called Fienes. Henry, his son, though he assumed the title of Lord Say, was not summoned to Parliament, and it remained unclaimed till 1733, when John Twisleton, esq., of Broughton, in Oxon, descended of the female line, from Sir William Fienes, lord Say and Seale, laid claim to the title, which although it then failed, was renewed by Thomas, his son, who was summoned to Parliament, as lord Say and Seale, in 1781. In the 2d of Edward IV., Sir William Fienes, lord Say, above mentioned, sold Kemsing to Sir Geoffry Bulleyn, whose grandson was sheriff of the county in the 3d and 9th of Henry VIII., and became a man of signal note. He was of the king's body guard, several times ambassador to the emperor and the kings of France and Spain; and in the 17th of the above prince, owing to his affection for his daughter, Anne

Boleyn, constituted Viscount Rochford, and in his 21st year, being K.G., raised to the earldom of Wiltshire and Ormond, and made lord of the privy seal. He died in the 30th of Henry VIII., having had by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Howard duke of Norfolk, one son George, executed in his lifetime, and two daughters, Anne, wife of the king, and Mary, married to William Carey, esq., of the king's body-guard, ancestor of the Lords Hunsdon, and the earls of Dover and Monmouth.

George Bulleyn, the son, bearing the title of Viscount Rochford, was, in the 26th of Henry VIII., made constable of Dover castle, &c., and in high favor until the change took place in the king's affections towards his sister, when Henry VIII., to facilitate his new desires, in a sudden burst of rage, in his 28th year, committed him to the Tower, when, in a few days being arraigned, he suffered decapitation, leaving no issue, and was interred in St. Peter's chapel in the Tower.

After his death the king seized this manor in right of his late unfortunate wife, Anne Boleyn, and it so remained till the 32d of that king, when he granted it, with other estates, for the maintenance of the Lady Anne of Cleves, during her continuance within the realm of England. She held this manor at her death under Philip and Mary, when it reverted to the crown, where it continued until Elizabeth, in her 1st year, granted it, with other estates, to her kinsman, Sir Henry Carey, whom she that year created Baron Hunsdon, in Hertfordshire, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service. He was descended from an ancient family at Cockington, in Devonshire, one of whom, Sir Robert, under Henry V., acquired great renown by overcoming an Arragonian knight in combat, who had performed great feats of arms in other countries, and came to England to make trial of his skill, when the long and doubtful combat took place in Smithfield, for which he was knighted by the king, and restored to part of his father's inheritance, which had been forfeited. From that time he bore the coat armour of the vanquished knight, *Argent, on a bend, sable, three roses of the field, barbed and seeded proper*, which the family continued to bear; the former coat having displayed, *Gules, a chevron argent, between three swans, proper;* one of which they retained for their crest. His son was William Carey, who, being at the conflict

of Tewkesbury, under Edward IV., on the Lancasterian side, was made prisoner, and lost his head, although a pardon had been promised.

By his first wife he had a son, ancestor of the Carey's, of Cockington, and by his second, a son Thomas, who, by Margaret, daughter of Sir Robert Spencer, had two sons; John, ancestor of Lucius viscount Falkland, slain at the battle of Newbery, under Charles I., and William, who married Mary, youngest daughter of Thomas Bulleyn, earl of Wiltshire, by whom he had one son Henry, created Lord Hunsdon, as above mentioned, and a daughter Catherine, married to Sir Francis Knolles, K.G.

Lord Hunsdon was afterwards much favored by Queen Elizabeth, and created K.G., but conceiving himself subsequently slighted by that princess, the chagrin brought on a dangerous illness, which terminated his life in the 38th of that reign. He left four sons, George and John, Sir Edmund, and Robert.

George, the eldest, succeeded his father in his honours, and this estate, and died in the 1st of James, leaving one daughter, married to Lord Berkley, upon which this estate reverted to his brother John. He died possessed of the property in 1617, and was succeeded by his son Henry, who soon afterwards conveyed the manors of Sevenoak, Kemsing, and Seale, to Richard Sackville, earl of Dorset, who reserving, to himself and heirs, a lease of ninety-nine years, passed them away to Mr. Henry Smith, but the possession continued by lease in the successive earls and dukes of Dorset, until John Frederic, duke of Dorset, in exchange for other lands elsewhere, obtained the fee, when he remained owner.

The liberty of the duchy of Lancaster claims over the manor of Kemsing.

CROWDLEHAM is a seat in this parish, for many generations in the possession of the family of the Bunce's, which came out of Wiltshire, and settled in Kent in the reign of Henry VIII., one of whom, Edward Bunce, was of Malmsbury, and had a son John, who was of Otterden, in this county, and whose heir, James, died in 1606, leaving five sons, and two daughters.

James, the eldest, was sheriff of London in the 19th of

Charles I., and, being a steady royalist, with others, in 1647, was committed to the Tower, and his estates declared forfeited to Parliament. After the Restoration he was restored to his place as alderman, and knighted. He left one son James, who in 1661 married, and had seven sons, and two daughters. John, the eldest, in 1699, married during the life of his father, who settled his estate in Kemsing on his son and issue. After the death of his father he called himself Sir John Bunce, bart. of Kemsing, when he died in 1741, and was succeeded in this seat and estate by his son and heir James, who possessed this estate, and resided here, having had by his third wife, one son and two daughters. This family bore for its arms, *Azure, on a fess argent, three eagles displayed, vert, between three boars passant of the second.*

KEMSING is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and *deanery* of Malling. The church stands on the north side of the village, being dedicated to St. Edith, whose image, set up in this churchyard, was greatly frequented for the singular benefits said to be daily dispensed by her, in preserving grain from mildew. It is a small fabric, consisting of one aisle and a chancel, with a pointed steeple at the west end, and contains but few monuments. In the chancel is a gravestone, with the figure of a man, and an inscription in black letter for Thomas de Hop, and, at the east end, a mural monument for Michael Jermin, D.D., obiit 1659, æt. seventy.

In the 15th of Edward I. this church was valued at fifteen marks.

The vicarage, with Seale annexed, was valued in the king's books at £19 13 4, the yearly tenths being £1 9 4.

In 1821 there were seventy dwellings in the parish of Kemsing; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 178, females 181, making a total of 359 souls.

SEALE is the next parish southward from Kemsing, called in ancient records, LA SELE, and DE LA SELE.

This parish contains much waste ground in the upper part, composed of dreary barren sand, consisting, in this and the adjoining parishes eastward, of several hundred acres, covered

with heath and furze; the soil in the middle part is Kentish rock stone, and below very rich and fertile, the whole computed to contain about 3000 acres of land. The high road from Westerham, over Wrotham heath to Maidstone, leads across this parish, whereon, near the eastern boundary, is the village of Seale, with the church on the north side, and on the western side a large hamlet, called Seale Chart.

About a mile northward is the old seat of Stonepit, and about the same distance on the other side, that of Diggins, now called the Grove, formerly the residence of Mrs. Harding, sister to the late earl Camden; beyond is Hall place, situated amidst coppice woods, where there are also the several commons of Godding green, Falk common, and Beechet green; the parish extending with a nook, southward, as far as Under River. The parish of Sevenoak stretches as far as the grounds of Wilderness, situated only a small distance southward of Seale village, and also bounds it towards the west. A fair is held here, on the 6th of June, for toys and pedlary.

THE MANOR OF SEALE has, from the earliest accounts, had the same owners as that of Kemsing. It will be sufficient therefore to observe, that in the reign of John, it was possessed by Baldwin de Betun, earl of Albermarle, from whom it passed by marriage to the family of the Mareschal's, earls of Pembroke, and thence to Roger de Bigod, earl of Norfolk. From his heir it passed by sale to Otho de Grandison, who procured a market for this manor, with an annual fair. He died without issue, leaving William de Grandison, his brother, his heir; whose grandson, Sir Thomas, died possessed of this manor in the 50th of Edward III., leaving his widow surviving, who also died holding it in the 18th of Richard II. After that period, it passed to Sir William de Bryene, who died in 1395, when it became the property of Sir William Fynes; in whose descendants, lords Say and Seale, it remained till it was again passed by sale to the family of the Bulleyn's, with whom it continued till Thomas Bulleyn, earl of Wiltshire, dying without issue male, Henry VIII. seized the estate in right of his late wife, the unfortunate Anne Bulleyn. Two years after, he granted it to his repudiated wife, the lady Anne of Cleves, to hold for her life; and she died possessed of this manor in the 5th of Philip and Mary. Thus reverting to the crown, it con-

Drawn by T.M.Baynes. Engraved by J.Rogers.

WILDERNESS.

KENT.

tinued there till Elizabeth, in her 1st year, granted it to her kinsman, Sir Henry Carey, lord Hunsdon, from whom the manor of Seale descended to his grandson, Henry lord Hunsdon, who, in the reign of James I., passed it away, with the manors of Kemsing and Sevenoak, to Richard Sackville, earl of Dorset; and with him it remained in the same manner as Kemsing, to his grace John Frederic, duke of Dorset, who possessed the fee of both estates.

The liberty of the duchy of Lancaster claims over the manor of Seale.

About three quarters of a mile southeastward lies the manor of HALL, with the seat called Hall place, which, in the 36th of Edward III., was the patrimony of Thomas Champneis, who that year conveyed a part to Sir John Wroth, of Enfield, who had been lord mayor of London in the 34th of that reign. He, in the 2d of Richard II., alienated his interest to Sir Thomas Lovell, who purchased the remaining part of this estate of Robert Champneis, and thus became possessed of the whole. His feoffee in trust conveyed this manor, with Hall place, in the 11th of Henry IV., to Thomas Theobald, or Tybold, in which family it remained till John Theobald, in the 27th of Henry VII., alienated it to William Porter, whose family seems to have had some property here before, as, in the 10th of Edward IV., John Alphey released by deed his right in Hall place to William Porter, esq.

This estate remained in the descendants of that family to Mr. Andrew Porter, who leaving a daughter, she carried it in marriage, under Charles I., to Peter Stowell; after which it was sold to one Thompson, in which name it continued for several generations, till Mr. T. Thompson sold it, in 1781, to John Frederic, duke of Dorset, who owned the same.

WILDERNESS is a seat near the boundaries of this parish, next to Sevenoak. It was formerly called *Stidulfe's place,* to which belonged a manor of the same name, part of the demesne lands of which lay in this parish, where they are still known by the name of Hoath farm, or Stedhalls. This place afforded both residence and surname to the family of the Stidulfe's, who possessed it, and bore for their arms, *Argent on a chief, sable, two wolves' heads couped of the first;* which arms

were likewise borne by those of this name in Surrey, who were descended from the race of Kent.

Robert de Stidulfe is mentioned in ancient deeds to have held this and other lands in Seale. In the 36th of Edward III. Reginald Stidulfe, of Stidulfe, accounted, with Thomas Champneis, for land held of this manor of Hall, one of which family married the daughter of Badsell, in Tudely, under Edward IV., whose granddaughter, Agnes, carried that estate and much land in this parish and East Peckham, to Richard Vane, or Fane, ancestor of the earls of Westmoreland. This estate afterwards passed to the name of Quintin, who changed it to that of Oliver, when they sold it to Richard Tybold, who died in 1569. Stephen Tybold died in 1619, and left two daughters, Catherine and Margaret, when this manor was allotted to the former; one of whose descendants, in the reign of Charles II., sold the estate, with Stidulfe's place, to Sir Charles Bickerstaffe. He resided there, and changed the name to that of Wilderness, by which it has ever since been called, having enclosed the grounds about the house to form a park.

He died in 1704, when this manor and seat were sold to John Pratt, esq., and he died in 1724, leaving one son, Charles, created earl of Camden, who was succeeded in this estate by his eldest son. It descended in that family down to the Hon. John Jeffries, earl of Camden, who, in 1797, possessed this seat.

About a mile eastward from the church stands an ancient seat, called *Stonepit*, from the soil whereon it is situated, having formerly been the estate of the Tybold's, before mentioned, who possessed it in the reign of Elizabeth. It afterwards passed to the family of the Piers's, of Westfield, in Sussex, of which place was Laurence Piers, who married Catherine, daughter of John Theobalds, esq. of Stonepit, by which union he came into the possession of this seat, to which he removed.

His son, Sir Thomas, died possessed of the property in 1680, as did his grandson, Sir George Piers, who died holding the place in 1720. It was soon after sold to Richard Goodhugh, esq., from which name it passed by a female heir to Mr. Richard Round, whose son resided here, and died possessed

of it, leaving several infant children, whose trustees held the property.

There was an estate in this parish called NULCOMB, now unknown, which, in the reign of Edward III., was the property of Sir Thomas Cawne.

SEALE is in the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Malling. The church, dedicated to St. Peter, was always esteemed as a chapel to Kemsing, and as such is not rated in the king's books: it consists of two aisles and a chancel.

Among other monuments, in the north aisle, on a gravestone, were the figures of a man and woman in brass, since lost; while those representing ten boys and twelve girls yet remain, which, by tradition, belonged to one of the family of the Theobald's. A mural memento for Mr. Maximilian Buck, vicar of Kemsing and Seale during forty-six years; and, in the chancel, are several memorials for the Newman's, of Stedalls. A tomb for Elizabeth Hunt, of Bounds, in Bidborough; another for John Chichester; and a gravestone for Sir William de Bryene, lord of Kemsing and Seale. A monument for Stephen Theobald, esq., and his two wives; another for Sir John and Lady Chichester, with several more, commemorative of that family; and a memorial for Thomas Piers, of Stonepit. In this church is also supposed to have been buried Thomas de Brinton, bishop of Rochester, who died in 1339, a stone still remaining, whereon was the figure of a bishop, inlaid with brass, long since torn away.

The vicar of Kemsing has the cure of this parish.

In 1821 there were 241 dwellings in the parish of Seale; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 678, females 642, making a total of 1320 souls.

SEVENOAK is the next parish southward from Seale, called, in the *Textus Roffensis*, *Sequenacca*, which name was given from seven large oaks growing on the hill where the town stands. It is now generally called *Sennock*.

This parish is situated partly above, as well as below, the great ridge of sand hills which run across this county, and

divides the upland from the Weald or southern district. It is divided into three districts, the Town Borough, Rotherhithe or Rehered, now called Riverhead, and the Weald. The parish is of considerable extent, being five miles long, from north to south, and about four in width. The soil varies; about the town it is sandy, as well as towards the hill, southward; below which it is a stiff clay; but near the low grounds, to Riverhead, is rich fertile soil. It reaches more than a mile below the hill, where there is a hamlet, called Sevenoak Weald, being within that district.

The town of Sevenoak lies about thirty-three miles from London, on high ground, above the sand hill; the church, which is situated at the south end, presenting a conspicuous object either way to a considerable distance. The high roads from Westerham and London, through Farnborough, meet at about a mile above; and that from Dartford, through Farningham and Otford, at the entrance of the town; when leading thence, they both run to Penshurst and Tunbridge. Between the town and the hill is much coppice wood, and a common, called Sevenoak, whereon is a seat, called Ash grove, which belonged to Mrs. Smith. The town of Sevenoak is healthy and pleasant, remarkable for many good houses, inhabited by persons of fashion and fortune, which render it a most desirable neighbourhood.

There is an hospital for the maintenance of thirty-two decayed elderly tradespeople, and a school for educating poor children, endowed by Sir William Sevenoak, who was lord mayor of London in the reign of Henry VI., and is said to have been a foundling, brought up by some persons of this town, whence he took his name. Dr. John Potkyn, who lived in the reign of Henry VIII., was a great benefactor to this school; and the institution being incorporated by Queen Elizabeth, was thence called Queen Elizabeth's free school. It was rebuilt in 1727, and the style of the corporation is, "the wardens and assistants of the town and parish of Sevenoak, and of Queen Elizabeth's free school there." There are six exhibitions belonging to this seminary, four of which are of £15 a year, confined to no college or either university in particular.

In the neighbourhood of the town, northward, is an open space, called Sevenoak Vine, noted for being the place where

games of cricket, the provincial amusement of this county, are in general played.

Near Sevenoak, Sir Humphrey Stafford was defeated, and slain by the famous Jack Cade, in 1450.

In the centre of the High street, is the house of the late Dr. Thomas Fuller, afterwards of Francis Austen, esq.; near it is the large market place, plentifully supplied, where are held two annual fairs. At the south end of the parish, is the residence of Multon Lambard, esq ; and at a small distance westward, the magnificent dwelling and park of Knowle; eastward of which, (a small valley intervening,) is the seat of Kippington. In the valley below, is Bradborne and the famous silk mills, which belonged to Peter Nonaille, esq., called Greatness. About a mile north-west from the town, where the two roads from London to Westerham meet, is the large hamlet of Riverhead, bounded by the river Darent and the parish of Chevening; in which, among others, is the seat of Montreal, that of Mrs. Potleys, and of the late Admiral Amherst, and others, most of which will be described.

In the account of the *Roman Stations* in Britain, written by Richard, a monk, of Cirencester, and published by Dr. Stukely, the station called *Vagniacæ*, is supposed to have been at Sevenoak, which is there set down as eighteen miles distant, both from *Medum*, Maidstone, and *Noviomagus*, Croydon; but in this opinion he has scarcely been followed by any other antiquary.

The manor of Sevenoak was always esteemed an appendage to that of Otford, and as such constituted part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury, till exchanged with the crown for other premises, by archbishop Cranmer, in the 9th of Henry VIII., as will be further mentioned.

The manor of Knowle, with that of Bradborne, in this parish, had, according to the earliest accounts, for some time the same owners as the manors of Kemsing, Seale, and Bradborne. In the reign of John they were in the possession of Baldwin de Betun, earl of Albemarle, from whom they went in marriage to the family of Mareschal's, earls of Pembroke, one of whom, William de Mareshal, siding with the rebellious barons in the reigns of John and Henry III., his possessions became escheated to the crown, when they appear to have been granted to Fulk de Brent, "a desperate fellow," as Camden calls him. He was by birth a bastard, of mean extraction, who landed

from the low countries, with some foreign auxiliaries and free-booters, to the assistance of King John, and became a great favorite both with that king and his son, Henry III., by both of whom he was invested with considerable power, when giving loose to his natural inclinations, he became guilty of many cruelties and oppressions. At length, siding with Prince Louis of France, in his design of invading England, which attempt failed, he fled into Wales, and the king seized on all his possessions; when the earl of Pembroke, returning to his allegiance, again obtained the possession of these manors. Hence they passed in like manner to Hugh Bigod, earl of Norfolk, whose heir, in the 11th of Edward I., conveyed them to Otho de Grandison, on whose death, without issue, William de Grandison became his heir, when his grandson, Sir Thomas de Grandison, passed away Knowle to Geoffrey de Say, and Bradborne, Kemsing, and Seale, to others, as may be seen under the description of those manors.

How the manor of Knowle passed from the family of Say, we do not find, but in the reign of Henry VI. it was in the possession of Ralf Leghe, who then conveyed it by sale to James Fienes, or Fenys, as the name was then spelt. He was much in favor with Henry VI., who summoned him to Parliament as lord Say and Seale, and in consideration of his eminent services, advanced him to the dignity of a baron; but incurring, from those favors, the jealousy of the Commons, they arraigned him before the mayor and others, and hurried him to the standard, in Cheapside, where they cut off his head, as previously mentioned.

His son and heir, Sir William Fynes, lord Say and Seale, being much engaged in the unhappy contentions of the houses of York and Lancaster, was compelled to sell the greater part of his possessions, and conveyed his manor of Knowle, in the 34th of Henry VI., to Thomas Bourchier, archbishop of Canterbury, for 400 marks.

Edward IV., by letters patent, in his 3d year, granted to archbishop Bourchier sundry liberties. He rebuilt the manor-house of Knowle, enclosed a park, resided here, and died in 1486, bequeathing it to his successors in the see of Canterbury, for ever.

Archbishop Morton resided here during his prelacy, and laid out large sums in repairing and augmenting the mansion.

Henry VIII., in his 6th year, appears to have honoured him with a visit in more instances than one.

This great prelate, who left behind him the character of having been born for the good of all England, deserved, both of the church and commonwealth, the high honours conferred upon him, which were two small a recompense for his high worth; he died at his manor-house here, in October 1500. He was succeeded by Henry Deane, who died at Lambeth, in 1502, when William Warham succeeded, and resided much at Knowle, and died in 1532. His successor, archbishop Cranmer, compounded with the king to give up this manor, by way of exchange, if it could be so called.

The manors of Sevenoak and Knowle remained in the crown, till Edward VI., in his 4th year, granted to John Dudley, earl of Warwick, and his wife, in exchange for other premises, the manor of Sevenoak. In the 5th year of the latter reign he was created duke of Northumberland; soon after which he sold, in exchange for other manors and lands, to the king, the manors and lordships of Sevenoak and Knowle, and all other lands and tenements which had been let by him to Sir George Harper and Thomas Colepeper, esq. On the attainder of the duke, and his execution, for high treason, all the other premises, which had been excepted in the exchange for his use, passed into the hands of Queen Mary.

Soon after the attainder of the duke of Northumberland, which was confirmed in Parliament the same year, the latter princess granted the manors of Sevenoak and Knowle to Reginald Pole, archbishop of Canterbury.

Cardinal Pole died possessed of these manors in 1558, the same day Queen Mary expired, upon which they devolved to the crown, when Elizabeth, in her 1st year, granted the manor of Sevenoak to her kinsman, Henry Carey, lord Hunsdon. His grandson, Henry lord Hunsdon, conveyed this manor to Richard Sackville, earl of Dorset, in the reign of James I.

In regard to Knowle, Queen Elizabeth, in her 3d year, granted the manor and house of Knowle to Sir Robert Dudley, earl of Leicester, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service, all of which the earl again surrendered to that potentate in the 8th year of her reign.

There had been two leases of the above estates granted by

their possessors, the terms of which were still subsisting; John duke of Northumberland made a lease of the enclosed ground, late the park of Panthurst, and the wood, called Whytley, in Sevenoak, to Sir George Harper and Thomas Colepeper, esq., who granted their interest therein to Christopher Roper, on whose death his wife carried it to her second husband, Thomas Bacon. He, in the 11th of Elizabeth, claimed the same, against the executors of one Rolf, who had possession of the property, together with the manor of Knowle, which they then held, at an annual rent, for the remainder of a term, granted to Rolf by the earl of Leicester. That claim was determined by the executors of Rolf conveying their interest in these estates to the assigns of Bacon and his wife, on whose behalf entry and delivery of possession was then made. Soon after, John Lennard, esq. of Chevening, became possessed of this subsisting term of the manor of Knowle, and of the fee of the rest of the premises.

After that period, John Lennard, esq. then of Knowle, and Sampson, his eldest son, in the 16th of Elizabeth, granted to Henry Lennard, son of the said Sampson, the park of Panthurst and the enclosed ground, called Panthurst park, with the parks, forest, and woods, called Whytlyff wood.

Sampson Lennard, after the death of his father, resided at Knowle till 1603, when his term being expired, he surrendered up the manor of Knowle to Thomas Sackville, earl of Dorset, to whom the reversion and fee simple had been granted by Queen Elizabeth soon after the earl of Leicester's surrender of his grant, as before mentioned.

The earl of Dorset resided much at Knowle house, which he is said to have greatly improved. His grandson, Richard earl of Dorset, about the year 1612, purchased the manor of Sevenoak of Henry Carey, lord Hunsdon, as previously observed. Afterwards, this earl became so excessive in his bounties, and prodigal in his expenditure, that he was compelled to sell the manor of Sevenoak and its appurtenances to Mr. Henry Smith, citizen and alderman of London, reserving to himself and his heirs a lease, at an annual reserved rent.

Mr. Smith was possessed of a very considerable estate, both in lands and money, who gave large sums to charitable uses during his life, as it appears, by his epitaph, that while he

Drawn by T.M. Baynes.

Engraved by S. Lacey.

KNOWLE PARK,

THE SEAT OF THE DUCHESS OF DORSET.

KENT.

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lived, he gave to the towns of Croydon, Kingston, Guildford, Darking, and Farnham, £1000 each, to buy lands in perpetuity, for the relief and setting the poor to work in the said towns. By his last will he also bequeathed £1000, for the same purpose, to the town of Ryegate, and £500 to that of Wandsworth; also £1000 to buy land, in perpetuity, to redeem four captives and prisoners from Turkish tyranny. In 1620 he conveyed several of his estates, among which were those in Sevenoak, Kemsing, and Seale, to Robert earl of Essex, Richard earl of Dorset, and others, in whom he likewise vested his large personal property in trust, to pay him £500, yearly, towards his maintenance and livelihood, and the residue in such manner as he should, by writing or will, appoint to charitable uses. He died in 1627, aged seventy, having by will given some directions as to part of his estates, and left the bulk of them, among which were the manors of Sevenoak, Kemsing, Seale, and Knowle, with the capital mansion of Knowle, to the disposition of his trustees.

In 1641, the earl of Essex and other trustees, enrolled in Chancery, allotted the rent of Knowle manor-house and park, then let to the earl of Dorset, at £100 per annum.

The manor of Sevenoak remained vested in this trust, but the possession was from time to time demised by leases for three lives, to the successive earls and dukes of Dorset, in which state it continued till some years back, when John Frederic, duke of Dorset, exchanged lands in Surrey with the trustees, for the fee simple of this manor, with those of Kemsing and Seale, and he consequently possessed them. Since that period, this venerable and stately mansion continued in the descendants of the earl of Dorset to his grace John Frederic Sackville, duke of Dorset, the late possessor, who made this place the constant seat of his residence.

The family of Sackville derive their origin from Herbrand de Salchevilla, Salcavilla, Saccavilla, or Sacvill, a town in Normandy, who came over with William the Conqueror, after which he returned into Normandy, and was living in 1079.

He had three sons, John, William, and Robert, and a daughter, Alice. Sir Jordan de Sackvill, the eldest son, resided in Normandy, and Sir William, the second, in England, which line ended in three female heirs. Sir Robert, the third son,

left four sons, of whom the eldest, Jordan de Saukevil, lived in the reign of Stephen and Henry II., and was a baron, as appears by deed. Sir Jordan, his eldest son, was a baron under Richard I., and died without issue in the 9th of John. Richard de Saukeville, next brother to Jordan, succeeded him in his possessions, and died without issue, so that his estates devolved to his next brother, Sir Jeffrey de Saukeville, third son of Jordan, who, with Ralph his brother, bore the surname of Marsey, and lived in the reign of John.

Sir Jeffrey de Saukeville, possessor of the manor of Buckhurst, left issue two sons, and one daughter; the eldest son, Jordan, was not only wealthy, but powerful, and, being a baron, opposed King John, whereby he lost his lands in Ireland, but, on returning to his allegiance, they were restored to him. There are several deeds remaining with his seal affixed, being *quarterly gules, and or a bend vairy*, being the arms of this family, which still bear, 45 JORDANI DE SAUKEVILLE.

He died before the 19th of Henry III., leaving three sons; William, the eldest, was lord of Saukvill, Bergholt, and Buckhurst. His son and heir was Jordan de Saukevill, who, in the 40th of that reign, was summoned to receive the order of knighthood; but, being in arms with the rebellious barons, he was taken prisoner at the battle of Evesham, in the 49th of that reign, and died in the 1st of Edward I., leaving a son, who, being a minor at the decease of his father, became a ward of the king, and was kept in the custody of Sir Stephen de Penchester, constable of Dover castle. Through the mediation of friends he obtained his liberty, but was enjoined, by the especial command of the king, to marry, without dower, Ermyntrude, a lady of Queen Eleanor's household, and daughter of Sir Roger Malyns, by which means he not only obtained his liberty, but the king's favor.

Thus may be seen the honourable and eminently distinguished situation of the ancestors of this noble family in those early times. They continued afterwards, in their several descents, equally conspicuous and eminent, as well in their alliances, as military and civil employments. The spelling of their name appears to have been altered from Saukeville to Sackville.

In the reign of Edward VI. the direct descendant of this family was Richard Sackville, chancellor of the court of Aug-

mentations, and when Elizabeth came to the crown, she chose him of her privy council. He represented the county of Kent in the 1st year of that reign, and died in the 8th of Elizabeth, leaving one son and heir, Thomas Sackville, who, in the 4th and 5th of Philip and Mary, represented in Parliament the county of Westmoreland, having had a grant of the reversion of the manor-house and park of Knowle. In the 9th year of the above reign, he was, by order of the queen, knighted by the duke of Norfolk in her presence, and the same day advanced to the title of lord Buckhurst, and afterwards made knight of the Garter; from which time the queen continued to distinguish him by particular marks of her favor.

He is said to have possessed both bodily and mental endowments in an eminent degree, and was in his youth lavish and magnificent in all his actions; but years and good counsel, together with frequent admonitions from the queen, (to whom he was related,) at length put a stop to his great expenditures, and he made amends to his family for his mispent time, as well in the increase of estate as honours.

In the 14th year of that reign he was sent ambassador extraordinary to Charles IX. of France, to congratulate him on his marriage; and afterwards ambassador to the United Provinces. In the 24th year of the same reign, he was styled baron of Buckhurst and chief butler of England; and, at the latter end of that year, succeeded Sir Christopher Hatton, as chancellor of Oxford. On the death of lord Burleigh, he was constituted lord high treasurer, and subsequently one of the lords commissioners for executing the office of earl marshal of England.

King James, on his accession, confirmed him in his office of treasurer, and, in his 1st year, created him earl of Dorset. At length this great man died suddenly, at the council table, April 19, 1608, aged seventy-two.

By Cecil, daughter of Sir John Baker, of Sissinghurst, he left several sons and daughters; of whom, Robert, the eldest, succeeded him as earl of Dorset, and likewise to the inheritance of Knowle; but he enjoyed his dignity only one year, and dying, was succeeded by Richard Sackville, his eldest son, by his first wife, daughter of Thomas Howard, duke of Norfolk, in his honours, as earl of Dorset, and in the mansion of

Knowle. He married, two days after the decease of his father, the lady Anne, daughter and heir of George Clifford, earl of Cumberland, and resided at Knowle with great magnificence, having purchased of Henry lord Hunsdon the manor of Sevenoak, with its appurtenances.

He died in 1624, leaving by his wife, who survived him, two daughters, Margaret, married to John Tufton, earl of Thanet, and Isabella, to James Compton, earl of Northampton.

This earl's prodigality and expensive housekeeping greatly diminishing his estate, compelled him to sell his property, among which was the manor of Knowle, reserving, however, to himself and his heirs, a lease, at an annual reserved rental.

On the decease of the earl, Sir Edward Sackville, K.B., his youngest and only surviving brother, succeeded him as earl of Dorset, who, in the reign of James I., had been member for the county of Sussex, and one of the principal commanders of the forces sent to assist Frederic king of Bohemia.

After the accession of Charles I., he was elected knight of the Garter; and, on the king's marriage, made lord chamberlain to the queen.

He shewed himself on every occasion a faithful and loyal subject to King Charles, during his troubles, and upon the death of that monarch, took it so much to heart, that he never after quitted his house, but dying in 1652, was buried with his ancestors at Witham.

Richard, his only surviving son, succeeded his father in titles and estates, and became chief promoter of the restoration of Charles II.; he again purchased the inheritance of the manor, mansion, and park of Knowle, making it his principal residence, as it has been of his family ever since.

In 1670 he was constituted, jointly with Charles lord Buckhurst, his son, lord lieutenant of Sussex, and died in 1677. He left several sons and daughters, of whom, Charles, the eldest, succeeded him in honours and estates; he was generous and liberal to excess, and a munificent patron of men of genius, learning, and merit. The earl died at Bath, in 1706, and left one son, Lionel Cranfield, earl of Dorset and Middlesex, who was, in 1708, made governor of Dover castle and warden of the Cinque Ports; and on the accession of George I., sworn of the privy council, and elected knight of the

Garter. In 1720 he was advanced to the dignity of duke of Dorset; and in 1724 constituted lord lieutenant of the county of Kent. At the accession of George III., he was continued of the privy council, lord warden of the Cinque Ports, and vice admiral of this county; he was also high steward of Tamworth and of Stratford-upon-Avon, and LL.D. After which, being greatly advanced in years, he retired from public business, and died in 1765, aged eighty-two.

The duke, in 1709, married Elizabeth, daughter of lieutenant general Walter Philip Colyer, brother of the earl of Portmore, who survived him, and died in 1768. By her he left six children, lady Anne, who died in 1721; Charles earl of Middlesex, who was twice elected to serve in Parliament for Sussex; lady Elizabeth, married to lord viscount Weymouth; lord John Philip, who married lady Frances Gower, by whom he left a son, Frederic, afterwards duke of Dorset, and a daughter, Mary. Lord John died in 1765, at Tour du Pin, on the Lake of Geneva; lord George Sackville was the youngest son, who following a military life, arrived at the highest preferments in the army, was sworn of the privy council, and commander in chief of the British forces in Germany. On the death of lady Elizabeth Germaine, who bequeathed to him a large fortune, he took the name of Germaine, in addition to his own. He was created viscount Sackville, and dying in 1785, was succeeded by his eldest son, viscount Sackville.

On the decease of Lionel duke of Dorset, Charles earl of Middlesex succeeded him in titles and estates, and died in 1769, leaving no issue; upon which he was succeeded in title and estates by his nephew, John Frederic, only son of his next brother, lord John Philip Sackville, duke and earl of Dorset, earl of Middlesex, baron Buckhurst and Cranfield, and vice admiral of Kent. In 1782 he was sworn of the privy council, captain of the yeoman of the guard, and master of the horse. In 1784 he was sent ambassador to France, and on his return, elected knight of the Garter. His grace married, in 1790, Arabella Diana, daughter of Sir Jonathan Cope, bart., by whom he had a son, George Frederic, and several daughters. The latter young nobleman was unfortunately killed by a fall from his horse, in Ireland.

He bore for his arms, *Quarterly, or, and gules, a bend over all*

vaire; which single bearing, without quarterings, has been the constant custom of this family to use; and for his crest, *an estoile of eight points, argent.* Supporters, *two leopards argent, spotted sable.*

The seat of Knowle contains a suite of magnificent apartments, decorated by one of the finest collections of pictures in this or any other country, being particularly rich in portraits of men who formerly figured in the annals of their country; a list of which would be too extensive for the limits of this History.

Bradborne is a manor here, the seat of which is situated near a mile north-west from the town of Sevenoak. This estate had the same owners as Knowle, till Sir Thomas Grandison, in the reign of Edward III., passed it away by sale to Walter de Pevenley, or Pemley, who, very probably, first erected this mansion, which, in old deeds, was written Pevenley, or Pemley court; but before the beginning of the reign of Henry VI., that family had become extinct, when the family of Ash succeeded to the possession, the members of which had previously been owners of much property in this neighbourhood. They were written in ancient Latin deeds De Fraxino, and probably descended from Thomas de Esse, who was one of the *Recognitores Magnæ Assisæ* in the reign of John. They rebuilt, undoubtedly, a great part of this ancient fabric, as appears by their coat of arms, *Azure, three chevrons argent,* in several of the windows. After this estate had remained for some generations in that family, it fell into the possession of that of Isley, in which it remained till Sir Henry Isley, in the 31st of Henry VIII., exchanged it with that monarch.

How long it continued vested in the crown we do not find, but in the reign of Elizabeth it was possessed by Sir Ralph Bosville, clerk of the queen's court of Wards, descended from Sir John Bosville, lord of Ardsley, in Staffordshire, whence it descended to William Bosville, esq., who succeeded his father. He rebuilt the mansion-house of Bradborne as it now remains, and dying in 1761, unmarried, bequeathed this estate in tail to his kinsman, Richard, only son and heir of Sir Edward Betenson, bart. On failure of descendants of the elder son of Sir Richard, the title of baronet passed to Sir Edward Betenson, who was of Wimbledon, in Surrey, whence he removed to his son's seat at Bradborne, where he died in 1762, leaving an only

son and heir, before mentioned, who succeeded him in title and estate. On his death, without issue, Bradborne, with the rest of the Bosville estates, went, by the limitations of Mr. Bosville's will, to Thomas Lane, esq. of Sevenoak, who possessed the same.

There is an estate in this parish called Blackhall, formerly possessed by a family called Totihurst; William de Totihurst flourished here in the reigns of Edward III. and Richard II., and Thomas de Totihurst held it in the reigns of Henry V. and VI. His son, Robert, was servant to Cardinal Bourchier, archbishop of Canterbury, and died possessed of this estate in 1512. He was succeeded by his son, Thomas, who, some years after, alienated it to Ralph Bosville, esq.; since which this estate has had the same proprietors as Bradborne, and ultimately passed to Thomas Lane, esq.

Kippington is a seat, formerly the property of a younger branch of the family of the Cobham's, of Cobham, in this county. Reginald de Cobham died possessed of this place in the 35th of Edward III., and his grandson, Sir Thomas Cobham, died possessed of it in the 11th of Edward IV., leaving a daughter, Anne, who carried it in marriage to Sir Edward Borough, who died in the 21st of Henry VIII.

Thomas, their son, was summoned to Parliament as lord Borough the following year, having had one son, Thomas, who bequeathed this estate to his youngest son, Sir William Borough, who, in the reign of Elizabeth, alienated it to one Burges, from whom it was, by a female heir, carried in marriage to a Hanger; whence it was sold to one Cowper, and he, in the reign of Charles I., conveyed Kippington to Mr. Thomas Farnaby, the most eminent scholar of that time. His school was so much frequented, that more eminent men in church and state issued thence than from any other seminary in England.

He had removed from London, where he had upwards of 300 noblemen and others under his care, to Sevenoak, in 1636, and, what is scarcely to be found in his profession, grew very rich, and purchased Kippington and other estates, here and at Otford. At length, on the breaking out of the civil wars, being suspected of too much loyalty, he was persecuted till his death, which happened in 1647, aged seventy-two. His direct descendant and grandson, Charles Farnaby, esq., was of Kip-

pington, knighted in the 2d of George I., and in the 6th of that reign, constituted sheriff of this county; in 1726 he was created a baronet.

This family bore for its arms, *Gules, two bars gemelles, argent on a bend, or, a lion passant of the field, armed and langued azure;* which coat was granted to John Farnaby, eldest son of Mr. Thomas Farnaby, in consideration of the services rendered to the royal family; but in the 2d of Queen Anne, the above coat was altered to *Argent, three bars gemelles, gules on a bend, or, a lion passant of the second.* He married and left one son, Thomas, his successor in title and estate; and two daughters, Sarah, who married Sir Sidney Stafford Smythe; and Elizabeth, who espoused William Hall, esq.

Sir Thomas Farnaby, bart., his only son, was of Kippington, and died in 1760, leaving three sons, Charles, his successor in title and estates; John, of West Wickham, esq.; and Thomas; as well as one daughter, married to Charles Dering, esq. of Barham, in this county.

Sir Charles Farnaby married Penelope, daughter of Ralph Radcliffe, esq. of Hichin in Hertfordshire, by whom he had no issue; and on the death of his brother in law, John Radcliffe, he became, in right of his wife, his heir, and afterwards assumed the name of Radcliffe. He resided for some years at Kippington, the house of which he nearly rebuilt, but removing to Hitchin, sold this seat to Francis Motley Austen, esq. of Sevenoak, who resided at Kippington.

There is an estate in this parish called Rumpshot, in old deeds written Rumpsted, anciently the inheritance of a family of the surname of Rumpstead, which appears to have been its original denomination, that line having possessed it for many generations. Sir William de Rumpstead was an eminent man, and flourished in the reign of Edward III., and, according to the tradition of the inhabitants, was the foster father of William de Sevenoak, found a desolate and forlorn orphan in the hollow body of an oak, who received both maintenance and education from his charity and benevolence.

In the reign of Henry VI. this place was in the possession of the family of the Nisell's, of Wrotham, in which it remained till Alice, daughter of William Nisell, carried it in marriage to John Bere, of Dartford, who, in the reign of Henry VIII.,

alienated it to one Peckham. He, not many years after, conveyed it to a Bedell, when Nicholas Bedell, in the 3d and 4th of Philip and Mary, passed it away to John Stacy, of Hollenden, in Tunbridge, who soon after sold it to Mr. Richard Love, of Sevenoak. His second son, Richard, succeeded to this estate, which he soon after sold to Thomas Lambard, esq., grandson of William Lambard, the perambulator. Thomas Lambard had two sons, Thomas, who died, and William, who became his heir; he died in 1675, and was succeeded by William, his son and heir, who was of Sevenoak, where he died in 1711, leaving two sons, Thomas, who succeeded him at Sevenoak, and Multon, who died in 1758, leaving no issue. Thomas, the elder brother, was of Sevenoak, and died in 1769, leaving two sons, Multon, esq. of Sevenoak, who married, and possessed this estate; Thomas, rector, of Ash; and four daughters.

The house and lands called Britains, in this parish, were, with the manors of Sevenoak, Knowle, and other premises, conveyed in exchange by Archbishop Cranmer to Henry VIII. as before mentioned.

Henry VIII., in his 35th year, granted this estate for life to Matthew Colthurst, but the fee remained in the crown till Edward VI. granted it to John Dudley, earl of Warwick, who that year executed a lease of the same for forty years, to Sir George Harpur, and Thomas Colepeper, esq. The earl of Warwick, afterwards duke of Northumberland, conveyed these estates again to the king, where they remained but a short time, as Queen Mary, in her 1st year, granted the fee to Sir Thomas Woodhouse and Thomas Reynowe, who that year passed it away to John Davensey and Anne his wife.

Sir Ralph Bosville, of Bradborne, in this parish, died in the 23d of Elizabeth, possessed of the manor or farm of Britains, and was succeeded by his second son, Sir Robert, in whose descendants, seated at Eynsford, it seems to have continued till Sir Henry Bosville dying without issue in 1702, devised it by will to his kinsman, Robert Bosville, esq. of Staffordshire. His son, of the same name, about the year 1765, sold it to Sir Thomas Farnaby, bart. of Kippington, in this parish, whose son, Sir Charles Farnaby Radcliffe bart. in 1797, alienated it

to Francis Motley Austen, esq. of Kippington, who owned the same.

Sampson Lennard, esq. of Herstmonceaux, in Suffolk, in 1611, in consideration of £1200 conveyed to John Cacott, gent., of Sunderidge, among other premises, the manor or farm called WICKHURST, with its appurtenances. This estate afterwards became the property of Thomas Streatfield, esq. of Sevenoak, after which it passed to Nathaniel Barham, esq.

STEDALLS, or *Stidulfes Heath*, is an estate in this parish adjoining to Seale, already mentioned as having been part of the demesnes of that manor, and passed from the family of Stidulfe, to that of Quintin, or Oliver, whence it was sold to Richard Tybold in the reign of Elizabeth. His grandson, Stephen, died in 1619, leaving two daughters, Catherine, married to Edward Mitchell, esq., who, upon the division of their inheritance, had this place, with Stidulfes place, in Seale, allotted to her, in this name. Stedalls so continued till a female heir carried it in marriage to Bishe Shelley, esq. of Sussex, who espoused Elizabeth, second daughter of William Perry, esq. of Turville park, by Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Colonel Thomas Sidney, and granddaughter and heir of Robert earl of Leicester, by whom he had one son, John Shelley, esq., who in 1793 assumed the name of Sidney, pursuant to the will of his grandmother above mentioned, who is the present possessor of this estate.

Of the THREE DISTRICTS into which this parish is divided, the Town Borough and Weald having been before mentioned, the remaining one of Riverhead is by no means inconsiderable. It lies about a mile from the town of Sevenoak, and contains the large hamlet of Riverhead, in which are situated Lord Amherst's seat of Montreal, that of Cool Harbour, late Admiral Amherst's, and Mrs. Petley's. Through this hamlet the road branches on the one hand to Westerham, and on the other across the river Darent, towards Farnborough and London, whence it extends beyond Bradborne, to the bounds of this parish northeastward at Greatness, which is within the same.

In this hamlet was the ancient mansion called *Brooks place*, supposed to have been built by one of the family of the Colepeper's, out of the materials taken from the neighbouring sup-

pressed hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. It afterwards passed into the possession of a younger branch of the family of the Amherst's; Jeffry Amherst resided here, and was descended of ancestors who had been seated at Pembury in the reign of Richard II., from whom, in a direct line, descended Richard Amherst, esq., who left three sons; the eldest, Richard, was sergeant at law; Jeffry, ancestor of the Riverhead branch; and William, who left an only daughter Margaret, married to John Champs, of Tunbridge.

Jeffry Amherst was rector of Horsemonden, and died in 1662, whose grandson was of Riverhead, as before mentioned. By his first wife he had several children, the second son only surviving, died in 1750, leaving seven sons and two daughters; of the sons, Sackville, the eldest, died unmarried in 1763; Jeffry was the second; John, the third, was of Riverhead, and vice admiral of the blue, who died without issue; the seventh son, William, was a lieutenant general in the army, who departed this life in 1781, leaving one son, William Pitt, and a daughter.

Jeffry, the second son, became at length possessed of the manor of Brookes, and, attaching himself early in life to the profession of a soldier, acquired the highest military honours, and, after six years glorious war in North America, was appointed governor, and commander in chief in 1760; when, after his resignation, the king appointed him governor of the province of Virginia. The glorious achievements of the British forces in that quarter of the globe during Sir Jeffry Amherst's continuance there, are detailed on an obelisk in the grounds of his seat at Montreal. In 1761 he was made knight of the Bath, and afterwards privy counsellor; he subsequently succeeded to the highest military preferments, being in 1796 made field marshal of his Majesty's forces, previous to which he had been created a peer of the realm, by the title of Baron Holmsdale, and in 1788 had a new grant of that barony, with remainder to his nephew, William Pitt Amherst, eldest son of his younger brother, lieutenant general Amherst.

Soon after Lord Amherst returned from America, he pulled down the old mansion of Brookes, and erected, at a small distance, an elegant fabric of stone, in which he resided,

naming it Montreal, in memory of his great success in taking that city in Canada.

His lordship married, first, Jane, only daughter of Thomas Dalyson, esq. of Hampton, who died without issue; and secondly, Elizabeth, daughter of the Hon. major general George Cary, brother to lord viscount Falkland. He died August 3, 1797. In January 1773 was born William Pitt, who succeeded Lord Amherst in the possession of Montreal; he married on the 24th of July, 1800, Sarah, daughter and coheir of Andrew, the second and last Lord Archer, by whom he has five children. He bears for his arms, *Gules, three tilting spears erect, or, headed, argent;* for his crest, *on a wreath, or and gules, a turf vert, and on it three tilting spears, one erect, and two saltierwise, or, headed, argent, encircled with a garland, vert;* for his supporters, on the dexter side, *a Canadian war Indian, his exterior arm embowed, holding a war axe, proper;* on the sinister side, *a like Canadian, holding in his exterior hand a staff, argent, thereon a scalp, proper.*

There is ANOTHER SEAT in this hamlet, for many generations the property and residence of a branch of the family of the Petley's, of which some account has already been given. Ralph Petley, eldest son of Thomas Petley, of Filston, in Shoreham, lived in the reign of James I., and in that family it descended to Mrs. Elizabeth Petley, after whose decease it became the property of her two younger sons, John and Horace.

SEVENOAK is in the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and, being a peculiar, is in the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church a large handsome building, with a square tower at the west end, is dedicated to St. Nicholas.

Among other monuments are the following: in the middle aisle tombs for the Heath's and the Wall's, and for Dr. Oliver Theobald, M.D., of Sevenoak, and others of that name, as well as for the Duck's, the Fowler's, and the Streatfield's, of this parish. In the north aisle a memorial for John Fermer, esq., a mural monument for William Lambarde, the perambulator, who died in 1601 at Westcombe, as well as for Sir Multon Lambarde. In the south aisle memorials for the Woodgate's

Drawn by T.M. Baynes. Engraved by S. Lacey.

CHEVENING PLACE,

and the Lucknor's; in the chancel a tomb for Ralph Petley, another for Sir Charles Farnaby, of Kippington, and also Sir John Coell, of Suffolk. Within the altar rails a gravestone, whereon were once the effigies of a man in brass, commemorative of Hugh Owen, rector. A monument, with the figure of a woman kneeling, and other sculptured figures, for the Lady Margaret, relict of Sir William Boswell. At the east end a monument for the Lady Margery Clerk, of that ancient family resident at Ford, in Wrotham, and many others too numerous for insertion.

This rectory was valued in the king's books at £13 6 8, the yearly tenths being in £1 6 8. The vicarage was estimated at £15 3 1½, and the yearly tenths at £1 10 3½. A pension is paid to the rector of Shoreham of £3 6 8.

Previous to the Reformation, there was a chapel or chantry dedicated to the Virgin, founded by Sir Henry Gawdy, clerk.

In 1821 there were 362 dwellings in the parish of Sevenoak; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 1006, females 1108, making a total of 2114 souls. The entire parish of Sevenoak contains 3944 inhabitants.

CHEVENING is the next parish lying northwestward from Sevenoak, a small part of which is in the hundred of Somerden.

This parish is about three miles long from north to south, and a mile and a quarter from east to west. Its northern boundary is the summit of the great ridge of chalk hills at Nockholt pound, where the soil is a chalk, mixed with clay. Near the foot of the hills, though on rather high ground, are Chevening house, the church and parsonage, with Dunton, and Madam's court. Hence the ground descends to a more fertile soil, the river Darent flowing through the southern part of the parish, northeastward of which is the hamlet of Chepsted, and the Place. At the eastern extremity the high roads from Sevenoak and Wrotham, through Riverhead, divide; that on the right leading along the eastern side of this parish, through the hamlet of Dunton green, and that on the left, along the middle

part of the parish, by the grounds of Chepsted place, southward of which is the great ridge of sand hills, and the Weald, into which this parish extends.

This district, in the reign of King John, was held by one of the eminent family of the Crevequer's; Robert de Crevequer holding of the archbishop of Canterbury one knight's fee in Cheveninges, which Adam de Cheveninges again held of him.

This manor remained parcel of the possessions of the see of Canterbury, till the reign of Henry VIII., when Archbishop Cranmer exchanged this property with that king.

It remained in the crown till the death of Charles I., when it was seized by the Parliament, and, after the survey, sold by the State to Christopher Badley, with whom it remained till the Restoration of Charles II. It then returned to the crown, and afterwards became part of the possessions of Sir James Dashwood, bart., of Oxfordshire, who died in 1779, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Henry Dashwood, who succeeded to the possession.

Beside the above estate there appears to be ANOTHER MANOR in this parish, called also the MANOR OF CHEVENING, subordinate to that above mentioned. Adam de Chevening, who had been one of the justices of assize, in the reign of John, possessed this manor under Henry III., and resided here; and his descendant, William de Chevening, held it of the archbishop in the 20th of Edward III. The family of Chevening, or Chowning as it was afterwards called, was succeeded in possession by that of the De la Pole's, one of whom, John, held it in the 10th of Henry VI., soon after which it passed by sale to an Isley, and William Isley, in the reign of Edward IV., gave it by deed to John Harney. In his posterity it continued for some descents, till at length a female heir carried it in marriage to John Mills, in the reign of Henry VIII. His son, under Edward VI., conveyed it to Henry Fitzherbert, who, in the 4th of the same reign, passed it away to John Lennard, esq.

This family was settled at Chevening as early as the reign of Henry VI., at which period we find George Lennard lived here, who, by Maud his wife, had John his son and heir, whose eldest son, John, left two sons, John and William. John, the eldest, inherited his father's house and lands in this parish,

and died in 1590, when he was buried in this church, under a sumptuous tomb of alabaster. He left all his estates to his eldest son, Sampson, who, during the life of his father, married the sister and heir of Lord Dacre.

On her brother's death, in the 36th of Elizabeth, without issue, she not only inherited a large fortune, but became entitled to the barony of Dacres, which was granted to her in the 2d of James I. Margaret lady Dacres died in 1611, which prevented her husband, Sampson Lennard, from being called to the house of peers as Lord Dacre, but the patent was granted him that year. He had been sheriff of this county in the 33d of Elizabeth, and died in 1615, when he was interred in Chevening church, with the Lady Dacres, his wife, under a stately tomb of alabaster.

Sir Henry Lennard, who had been knighted by the earl of Essex, at the taking of Cadiz, in Spain, was their son and heir. On the death of his mother, in 1611, he became Lord Dacre, and on the demise of his father, succeeded, as well by settlement as his father's will, to an estate tail, in all manors, lands, &c. which he had possessed at the time of his death in the county of Kent.

Henry lord Dacre married Grysogon, daughter of Sir Richard Baker, of Sissinghurst. He died in the 14th of James I., leaving one son Richard, who succeeded him in his titles and estates, and four daughters. Richard Lennard lord Dacre succeeded to his father's property in Chevening and elsewhere, and rebuilt Chevening house, from a plan of Inigo Jones.

He died in 1630 at Hurstmonceaux, in Sussex, Francis lord Dacre, his eldest son by his first wife, then only nine years of age, having succeeded to his titles and estates. He married Elizabeth, sister and heir of Viscount Banning, by whom he had three sons and three daughters; of the former, Thomas was his successor, Francis died without issue in 1706, and Henry dying in 1703 left three daughters.

Lord Dacre died in 1662, leaving his wife surviving, afterwards created countess of Shepey for her life, and died in 1686.

By his will in 1655 he gave all his manors and lands to his eldest son Thomas in tail male, who accordingly succeeded

his father therein, as well as to the title of Lord Dacre, and was created earl of Sussex by Charles II. in his 26th year.

He died possessed of Chevening manor and mansion, with Chepsted, in 1715, and lies buried in Chevening church.

He left Anne, his countess, surviving, who died in 1722, by whom he had two daughters, Barbara and Anne, his coheirs. The former was married to Charles Skelton, lieutenant-general in the French service, and grand cross of the order of St. Louis, and the latter to Richard Barrett Lennard, esq., of Belhouse, in Essex, grandson of Richard Lennard, who took upon him the name of Barrett, being only son of Richard Lennard lord Dacre, by Dorothy, daughter of Dudley lord North, his second wife.

The ladies, Barbara and Anne, not only succeeded to the estates of the earl their father, at Chevening and elsewhere in Kent, but became entitled to the barony of Dacre, which rested in abeyance between the two sisters, of whom the eldest, Lady Barbara, died at Paris, without issue, in 1741, when Lady Anne, as sole heir of her father, became Baroness Dacre. Richard Barrett Lennard, her first husband, died during the life of his father, in 1716, leaving by her an only son and heir, the late Thomas Barrett Lennard lord Dacre. She married, secondly, Henry Roper lord Teynham, by whom she had two sons and a daughter, the eldest of whom, George, left a son, Trevor Charles Roper, who succeeded, after the death of Thomas Lennard Barrett lord Dacre, to the barony of Dacre, and died in 1794. She was thirdly married to Robert Moore, a younger son of Henry earl of Drogheda, by whom she had one son.

The ladies, Barbara and Anne, daughters of the earl of Sussex before mentioned, in 1717 joined in the sale of Chevening manor and dwelling, and the rest of their lands in this parish, to major general James Stanhope, eldest son of Alexander Stanhope, only son of Philip, first earl of Chesterfield, by his second wife Anne, (daughter of Sir John Packington, of the privy council to Queen Elizabeth,) which same Stanhope died in 1707, leaving by Catherine his wife, five sons and two daughters.

James, the eldest, who purchased this manor, following a military life, rose by degrees to the highest honours. In 1708,

being declared commander in chief of the British forces in Spain, he reduced the castle of St. Philip, and the celebrated port of Mahon, in the island of Minorca, and in 1710 the signal victory at Almenara was gained in consequence of his prudence and valour. On the accession of George I., he was sworn of the Privy Council, and made one of the principal secretaries of state; after which, being much in the confidence of the king, he was appointed first minister to manage the affairs of the nation, and the same year, 1717, promoted to the dignity of lord viscount Stanhope, of Mahon, in the island of Minorca, and Baron Stanhope, of Elvaston, in Derbyshire, with limitation for want of male heirs, to Thomas Stanhope, of Elvaston, and his brothers, Charles and William, which last was created earl of Harrington.

In 1718 he was again made secretary of state in the room of the earl of Sunderland, who by mutual exchange had his place at the Treasury board, and on the 14th of April following was further advanced to the dignity of Earl Stanhope. In 1719 and 1720 he was appointed one of the lords justices for the governing this kingdom during the absence of the king, and continued a principal minister of state to the time of his death. He was taken suddenly ill at the House of Lords, from too great agitation of spirits, as is said, on the 4th of February, 1721, and died the next day. He was buried at Chevening, where his funeral was attended with all due honours to a great general, by the express commands of the king. He married Lucy, youngest daughter of Thomas Pitt, esq. of Stratford, in Hants., some time governor of Fort St. George, who survived him, and dying in 1723, lies buried in this church by her husband. He had by her four sons, and three daughters, of whom Philip, the eldest son, succeeded him as Earl Stanhope, who married Lady Grizel Hamilton, sister to Thomas earl of Haddington, by whom he had two sons, Philip, who died at Geneva in 1763, and Charles, who succeeded him as Earl Stanhope. He married in 1774, Hester, one of the daughters of the great earl of Chatham, who died in 1780, by whom he had three daughters; Hester Lucy, married to Mr. Taylor, of Sevenoak; Grisilda, and Rachael. He married, secondly, in 1781, Louisa, daughter of Henry Grenville, esq.,

late governor of Barbadoes, by whom he had two sons, and one daughter.

Philip Henry, born the 7th December, 1781, succeeded his father the 15th December, 1816, who married on the 19th of November, 1803, the Hon. Catherine Lucy Smith, second daughter of lord Carrington, and has issue Philip Henry, viscount Mahon, born the 30th January, 1805; George Joseph, born 17th March, 1806; and Catherine Lucy Wilhelmina, born 31st May, 1819. He bears the same arms as the earl of Chesterfield, *a crescent* for difference; and for supporters, on the dexter side, *a talbot ermine, on the sinister, a wolf, or, ducally crowned azure; each charged on the shoulder with a crescent azure.* His crest is the same as that of the earl of Chesterfield.

The manor of Chepsted, otherwise Wilks, was, in the reign of Edward III., in the possession of a family which thence derived its name; and, in the 20th year of that prince, the heirs of John de Chepsted paid aid for it as the tenth part of a knight's fee, which John de Chepsted had formerly held of the archbishop of Canterbury. From the heirs of John de Chepsted this manor, with Whitley woods, lying near the sand hills, passed into the name of Wilkes, whence it acquired the name of Chepsted, or Wilkes, in which family it continued till the reign of Henry VIII., when Anne, daughter of Ralph Wilkes, carried her interest therein to James Hall, whose ancestor, Hubert de Haule, was possessor of lands in Chevening in the reign of Edward III., which he then conveyed to Adam de Chivenigg and his heirs.

Another heir of John de Chepsted, above mentioned, as appears by an old pedigree, (once in the hands of Sir Sackville Crow,) married John de Bore, who in her right became possessed of some interest in this manor; from which name it was again carried in marriage by another female heir to one Stocket, who passed away his right to William Isley, about the reign of Henry VI. Sir Henry Isley had possession of this manor during the remainder of the reign of Henry VIII.; soon after which, Sir Henry and William, his eldest son, by way of mortgage, conveyed to Robert Cranwell, the chief house of Chepsted, and certain lands there. He, in the 1st of Queen Mary, sold all his estates to John Lennard; when Sir

Henry Isley, having joined in Sir Thomas Wyatt's rebellion, was attainted, and all his lands forfeited to the queen. This manor afterwards passed in like descent, from John Lennard, as the manor of Chevening, till the ladies Barbara and Anne, coheirs of Thomas earl of Sussex, joined in the sale of the property to major general Stanhope; the same being now possessed by the present earl.

CHEPSTED HOUSE is a seat and estate, situated on the southern verge of this parish, and was probably once a part of the demesne lands of the last-described manor. The first mention we find made of this property was in the latter end of the reign of Elizabeth, when it was in the possession of Robert Cranmer, esq. of Asflacton, in Nottinghamshire. He was son of Thomas Cranmer, and married Jane Graie, daughter of Henry Graie, of Sussex, by whom he had an only daughter, Anne, who carried this seat in marriage to Sir Arthur Herrys, eldest son of Sir William Herrys, of Cricksey, in Essex, by whom he had two sons, Cranmer and John, and a daughter, Jane.

Sir Arthur died possessed of this estate in 1632, and was succeeded by his second son, John Herrys, esq., who married Frances, daughter of Sir Thomas Dacre, of Cheshunt, in Hertfordshire; she survived him, and carried this estate in marriage to William Priestly, of Wild hill, in Essingdon, Hertfordshire; and he, in 1652, conveyed Chepsted to Jeffry Thomas, gent., who, in 1654, conveyed it to Ralph Suckley, who parted with it to Mr. David Polhill, gent. of Otford.

David Polhill resided here, and on the death of his grandfather, in 1658, became his heir. He was high sheriff in 1662, and died without issue, leaving his estate by will to his only surviving brother, Thomas Polhill, esq. of Clapham, in Surrey, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Ireton, esq., by whom he left three sons, David; Henry, who died in 1753; and Charles, who also departed this life in 1755, without issue.

Thomas Polhill, esq., before his death, in 1665, conveyed this seat to Sir Nicholas Strode, of Westerham, whose widow and two daughters passed it away, in 1693, to William Emerton, esq. of the Temple, London, who pulled down the old house, and rebuilt the present seat. He married, and left two daughters his coheirs; and they joined with his widow, in the 8th

of Queen Anne, in vesting the same in trustees, to be sold, for the better support of his widow and two daughters. In consequence of this, the estate was alienated to David Polhill, esq., who had sold the same to Sir Nicholas Strode, before mentioned. He afterwards resided at Chepsted, and, in 1708, was chosen to represent this county in Parliament, and in 1715, was made sheriff and keeper of the records in the Tower. He died, aged eighty, in 1754, having been thrice married; when, by his last wife, who died in 1785, aged eighty-seven, he had Charles, his heir, Thomas, and John, and one daughter, Elizabeth.

Charles Polhill, of Chepsted, in 1754, married Tryphena, daughter of Sir John Shelley, bart. of Sussex, by whom he had one daughter, of whom her mother died in childbed. Mr. Polhill afterwards married Mrs. Patience Haswell, by whom he had issue four sons and a daughter, when he possessed this seat and resided here. He bears for his arms, quarterly, of four coats: first, *Polhill or, on a bend gules, three cross crosslets of the field;* second, *argent, an eagle displayed or;* third, *azure, a fess between three garbs, or;* fourth, *Theobald's gules, six cross crosslets fitchee, three, two, and one, or;* over all, *a crescent for difference.* A yearly fair is held at Chepsted, on Whit Tuesday.

Morant's court, otherwise called *Madam's court*, is a manor here, which lies close at the foot of the chalk hills, and gave both residence and surname to its possessors. In the 21st of Edward I., an assize was held before the justices itinerant, on a complaint brought against Ralph de Berners, for having unjustly disseised William, son of Thomas de Moraunt, and Jordan and Henry, his brothers, of their free tenement in Chevening and Sevenoak.

Jordan and William de Moraunt were possessors of this manor in the 14th of Edward II., and William de Moraunt was sheriff in the 12th and 13th of Edward III. His son, Sir Thomas, left an only daughter, Lora, who carried this estate in marriage, first, to Sir Thomas Cawne, of Ightham, and secondly, to James de Peckham, of Yaldham, in Wrotham, in which family it continued in the reign of Henry VIII., in the 16th year of which prince, Reginald Peckham was found to die possessed of the manors of Morant's court, Wynsolds, and Gold-

smiths. In his descendants Morant court continued till the reign of James I., when it was alienated to Blackswell, and thence, in the reign of Charles I., to a Watson, of Oxfordshire; in whose descendants it continued till the reign of Queen Anne, when one of that name alienated it to Pendock Price, of Westerham, whose son dying possessed of it, without issue, it passed to his brother, Thomas Price, esq., the widow of whose son and heir, Mrs. Mary Price, became entitled to the same.

There is a court-baron held for this manor, over which the liberty of the duchy of Lancaster claims jurisdiction.

Northward from Morant's court, at the foot of the chalk hill, close to the boundary of the parish of Otford, lies the manor of Donington, now called DUNTON, which, in the reign of Edward III., was in the possession of William Morant. This estate passed in the same manner as Morant's court to the family of the Peckham's, and Reginald Peckham was possessed of it in the reign of Henry VIII.; after which it passed by sale to the family of the Polhill's, and in their possession it has continued for many years, down to Charles Polhill, esq. of Chepsted.

CHEVENING is in the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and being a *peculiar*, in the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church, dedicated to St. Botolph, is situated on the north-west side of the parish, being a handsome building, containing three aisles and three chancels.

Among other monuments are the following: in the south aisle, memorials for the Denham's, and William Fuller, gent.; in the south chancel, a fine tomb, of Bethersden marble, for John Lennard, gent.; in the north aisle, a memorial for Mrs. Mary Thomas, of Sevenoak; and in the south chancel, a stately tomb, of alabaster, whereon are the figures of a man in armour, and a lady in her robes, with their heads resting on cushions; at his feet is a brass head out of a ducal crown, and at hers, a dog; on the south side are three sons kneeling; and on the north five daughters; this tomb having been raised for Sampson Lennard, esq., and his wife, the lady Dacre. On the north side is a monument for lady Anne Herrys, sole daughter and heir of Robert Cranmer; and at the east end, a mural tomb, with the figures of a man and woman kneeling at a desk;

within the rails, on a gravestone, are the figures of a man and woman curiously engraved in brass, the inscription lost, but the date 1596.

In the 15th of Edward I. the rectory of Chevening was valued at twenty-five marks, and the vicarage at £101, making in the whole £110.

This rectory is valued in the king's books at £21 6 8, the yearly tenths being £2 2 8; there is a pension to the rector of Shoreham.

In 1821 there were 143 dwellings in the parish of Chevening; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 415, females 397, making a total of 812 souls.

Sundridge lies westward from Chevening, written in most ancient deeds *Sundrish*, which appears to have been its proper name. In Domesday it stands recorded as *Sandresse*, and in the *Textus Roffensis*, *Sunderersce*. The village of Sundridge is situated on the high road leading to Westerham, which crosses the middle of this parish, as does the river Darent, in a double stream; a little to the northward of which, the ground rises still farther northward, for near a mile and a half, to the great ridge of chalk hills, where it is little more than a mile in width. Midway to the foot of these hills, is the seat of Combebank, the hamlet of Oveneys green, and the seat of Overden, the residence of the dowager lady Stanhope. Just below the village, southward, is a seat, formerly belonging to Thomas Mompesson, esq., and afterwards to Edward Peach, esq. Near the above is the church, and close by, the ancient site of Sundridge place, whereon is now a mere farm-house; about a mile and a half eastward is the manor of Dryhill, formerly the property of the family of the Isley's, and subsequently of Mr. Woodgate, of Summerhill. Southward thence the parish extends three miles to the great ridge of sand hills, about midway towards which is Brook place; on either side there abounds much coppice wood, the land very poor; and on the top of the hills stands the hamlet called Ide hill.

These hills separate the upland district from that below, called the Weald; the part above being distinguished by the

name of Sundridge Upland, that below being denominated Sundridge Weald, in the same manner as the other parishes are in the same situation. Near the foot of the hills, in the Weald, is the estate of Hendon, where the soil becomes a stiff clay, with good tillage land, Sundridge having been in early times part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury. In the reign of Edward the Confessor, Godwin unjustly withheld it from the archbishop, and, after the Conquest, Odo bishop of Bayeux, took possession of the property, but Archbishop Lanfranc recovered it at the assembly held on Penenden heath in 1076.

In the reign of Henry III. the manor of *Sundrish* was held of the archbishop of Canterbury by the family of the Apulderfield's, from which it passed to that of the Fremingham's, one of whom, Sir Ralph de Fremingham, paid aid for it in the 20th of Edward III. Sir Ralph de Fremingham resided at Farningham, in this county, of which he was sheriff in the 32d of Edward III., and died the next year. His son, John de Fremingham, was of Lose, and sheriff in the 2d and 17th of Richard II. He died in the 13th of Henry IV., leaving no issue, and gave this manor to his kinsman and next heir, Roger Isley, and his heirs male. The family of the Isle's, or Isley's, called in French deeds, L'Isle, and in Latin, De Insula, was seated in this parish in early times, for John de Insula obtained a charter of *free warren* for his lands in Sundrish, in the 11th of Edward II., whose grandson, Roger Isley, married Joane, sister of Sir Ralph de Fremingham. Their son John left Roger Isley, esq. of Sundridge, who, on the death of his kinsman, John de Fremingham, of Lose, without issue, in the 13th of Henry IV., inherited the manor of Sundridge, by the gift above mentioned. They bore for their arms, *Ermine, a fess gules.*

Roger Isley died possessed of this manor in 1429, leaving two sons, William and John, the former of whom inherited this manor in fee tail. He was sheriff in the 25th of Henry VI., and died possessed of the property in the 3d of Edward IV., holding it of Thomas archbishop of Canterbury, by knight's service, and the yearly rent of £22 12s. He also died holding the manors of Dryhill, Brook place, Blount's

tenement, and Usmondes, and departed this life without issue, when the son of his younger brother became his heir.

John Isley, esq., nephew and heir of William, was justice of the peace, and sheriff in the 14th of Edward IV., who died in 1483, leaving Thomas Isley, and he on his decease held Sundridge manor, in the 11th of Henry VIII., leaving by his wife ten sons, and three daughters. Their eldest, Sir Henry Isley, was sheriff in the 34th of Henry VIII., who, in the 5th of Edward VI. procured the disgavelment of his lands.

He left a son William, who married Ursula, daughter of Nicholas Clifford, esq., when these estates having been confiscated, in consequence of the attainder of his father, they were restored to his son William, on payment of £1000, and an annual disbursement at the manor of Otford of £22 12 1. In the 5th of Elizabeth an Act passed for the restitution in blood of Sir Henry Isley's heirs.

William Isley afterwards possessed this estate in the reign of Elizabeth, but was compelled to sell it for the payment of his debts, when it was conveyed to the queen, in whom it remained vested, till James, by his letters patent, in the 22d year of his reign, granted the manor of Sundridge to Nicholas Street, and George Fouch, at the yearly feefarm rent of £42 12s.

Soon after we find this estate in the possession of one Brooke, when it appears to have been esteemed as two manors; as he, at the latter end of the reign of Charles I., conveyed it by the names of the manors of Sundridge Upland, and Sundridge Weald, by sale to Mr. John Hyde. His descendant John was of Sundridge place, and died in 1729, leaving two sons; John, of the Temple, and Savile. After that period these manors seem to have been divided into moieties, when Sundridge Weald became the property of John Hyde, who, about the year 1773, pulled down the ancient Place house, leaving only a farm-house in its stead, and the former property fell into the hands of Savile Hyde, esq., who remained the possessor.

There are two court-barons kept, one for Sundridge Upland, and the other for Sundridge Weald.

The present feefarm rent paid for these manors is £32 12s.,

the remainder of the original sum being disbursed by the several possessors of the other parts of these manors, by grants at different times from the crown.

OVERNEY, or OVERNEY'S GREEN, now called OVENDEN, is a manor, or farm, which was part of the estate of the family of the Fremingham's, and afterwards, as before mentioned, of the Isley's, having been one of the estates sold for the payment of the debts of William Isley, which became the property of Leven Bufkin. Soon after, he reconveyed this estate to Henry Isley, son of William before mentioned, who, by deed, in the 22d of Elizabeth, sold the property, then called *Overney's green*, or *Austins*, to James Austin, who, with Henry Isley, and William his father, by deed and fine conveyed it to John Lennard, Sampson Lennard, and their heirs. From them it descended, with another estate called Cotland barn, in this parish, purchased by Sampson Lennard, to Thomas, earl of Sussex, the estate of Overneys being included among those for which the earl obtained a verdict at the Queen's Bench bar in 1709. He conveyed them with Chevening, and other lands in this neighbourhood, to Major General James Stanhope, after which his grandson, the late Charles earl of Stanhope, possessed the same.

BROOK PLACE, so called from its contiguity to a small rill of water, was once accounted part of the manor of Sundridge, and most probably the first habitation of the Isley's in this parish. The last who died possessed of this estate was William Isley, who died under Edward IV., having conveyed the property by sale to John Alphew, of Bore place, in Chidingstone, on whose death in 1489, without issue male, his two daughters became entitled to his estates; on a division of which, Sir Robert Reid, in the reign of Henry VI., became possessed of this manor in right of his wife. He left four daughters coheirs, one of whom, Catherine, married Sir Thomas Willoughby, a younger son of those of Evesley, in Lincolnshire, who entitled him to Brook place; and his descendant, Thomas Willoughby, esq., in the reign of Elizabeth, sold it to Sir Thomas Hoskins, of Oxsted, in Surrey, descended from an ancient family of that name in Herefordshire. On his decease the property devolved to his eldest son, Charles Hoskins, esq., who died in 1657, and his grandson Charles, of Croydon, in Surrey, left an only

daughter and heir, who carried this estate in marriage to John Ward, esq. of Squerries, in Westerham, who died possessed of it in 1775, when his eldest son and heir, John Ward, esq., of Squerries, afterwards owned the property.

HENDEN, called in ancient writings Hethenden, is a manor which lies at the southern edge of this parish, in the Weald below Ide hill, being a member of the manor of Boughton Aluph, in the eastern part of this county.

This estate had, for a continued series of years, owners of the highest rank and title in the kingdom, having been part of the possessions of Bartholomew de Burghersh, who died possessed of the property in the 29th of Henry III., leaving by Elizabeth, his wife, two sons, Bartholomew and Henry, of whom, Bartholomew was eminent for his valour, and, in the reign of Edward III., made knight companion of the Garter.

He died in the 43d year of that prince, leaving by his second wife, Margaret, sister of Bartholomew lord Badlesmere, who survived him, one daughter and heir, Elizabeth, married to Edward le Despencer, eldest son of Edward, who, on the death of his uncle, Hugh le Despencer, without issue, became his heir.

He died in the 49th year of the same reign, possessed of this manor in right of his wife, who, surviving him, died in the 10th of Henry IV., and by her he left a son, commonly called lord le Despencer, of Glamorgan and Morganok, who, in the reign of Richard II., was advanced to the title of earl of Gloucester, and exhibiting his petition in the same Parliament for revocation of the judgment of exile against his great grandfather, Hugh le Despencer, had it granted. In that petition it appears Hugh le Despencer was then possessed of no less than 59 lordships in different counties, 2800 sheep, 1000 oxen, 1200 kine with their calves, 40 mares with their foals, 160 draft horses, 2000 hogs, 3000 bullocks, 40 tons of wine, 600 bacons, 80 carcases of Martinmas beef, 600 muttons in his larder, 10 tons of cyder, armour, plate, jewels, and ready money to the amount of £10,000, 36 sacks of wool, and, what was of the greatest value in those days, a library of books.

Thomas married Constance, daughter of Edward Langley, duke of York, and although one of the chief of those peers who had formerly acted in the deposition of Richard II., was

soon after, degraded from his honours as earl, by Parliament, in the 1st of Henry IV., as were all others who had been concerned in the death of Thomas of Woodstock, duke of Gloucester. After which, conscious of his danger, he fled, and being taken at Bristol, was conveyed to the market-place by the rabble, and beheaded; when, the next year, by the name of Thomas, late lord Spencer, he was adjudged a traitor, and subjected to forfeit all his lands. His daughter, and ultimately sole heir, Isabel, in the year her father died, married Richard Beauchamp, lord Bergavenny, afterwards earl of Worcester, who, in the 2d of Henry V., had possession granted of all these lordships and lands which, upon the death of her brother, under age, and without issue, descended to her, among which was this manor of Henden; and upon the demise of Constance, her mother, had the like possession granted of her dower.

Richard earl of Worcester died previously, and she afterwards, by a special dispensation from the pope, (they being brother's children,) married Richard Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, one of the most considerable persons of his time, who, at the coronation of Henry IV., was made knight of the Bath, being then only nineteen years of age. In the 5th year of that reign he behaved bravely against Owen Glendower, then in open rebellion, whose standard he took in battle, and afterwards gained great honour at the conflict of Shrewsbury, where he fought against the Percie's.

At the coronation of Henry V., he was constituted lord high steward, for his wisdom and indefatigable industry in the service of the king; after which he was declared captain of Calais, and governor of the Marches in Picardy, and, in 1417, created earl of Aumarle, or Albermarle, in reward for his bravery in France, and elected knight of the Garter. Upon the death of Henry V. he was appointed governor to the young king, Henry VI., and on the demise of the duke of Bedford, regent of France, and lieutenant general of all the king's forces in that realm and in Normandy. He died at the castle of Rouen, in 1439, leaving Isabel, his second wife, surviving, by whom he had Henry, and Anne, married to Richard Nevill, earl of Salisbury; she died a few months after the earl her husband, possessed of this manor.

This son, Henry de Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, succeeded his mother in this estate at Sundridge, being only fourteen years of age at the decease of his father. He was so great a favorite with Henry VI., that the highest honours were thought insufficient to manifest the king's affection towards him.

In the 22d of Henry VI., he was created premier earl of England, and, for distinction between him and other earls, had granted to him and his heirs male licence to wear a golden coronet on his head, as well in the presence of the king as elsewhere; and, within a few days after, was further advanced to the rank of duke of Warwick, with precedence next after the duke of Norfolk, and before the duke of Buckingham. He had also a grant of the islands of Guernsey and Jersey, together with their castles; and lastly, was declared monarch of the Isle of Wight, the king, with his own hands, placing the crown on his head. He did not, however, live long to enjoy those honours, being taken off in the flower of his age, A.D. 1445, in the 22d of Henry VI. His body was carried to Tewksbury, where it was interred among his ancestors: on his demise, he possessed this manor of Henden, leaving Cicely, his wife, daughter of Richard Nevill, earl of Salisbury, (whom he had married during the life of his father, being then scarcely ten years of age,) and one daughter, Anne, who died an infant. Anne, her aunt, sister to the late duke of Warwick, then became heir to the earldom and her brother's estates, being at that time the wife of Richard Nevill, earl of Salisbury, having been married to him the same year Henry her brother married Cicely, his sister; by reason of which union, and in regard for his special services, he had the title of earl of Warwick confirmed to him, his wife, and their heirs.

This earl of Warwick, so well known in English history by the title of the *King Maker*, finding himself of sufficient consequence to hold the balance of the families of York and Lancaster, by changing from one side to the other, rendered England, during the continuance of his power, a scene of constant confusion and bloodshed. He made or unmade kings, of the one or other house, as suited his passions, or served his purposes; and was at length slain, when endeavouring to replace King Henry on the throne, at the battle of Barnet, in 1471.

By Anne, his wife, he had only two daughters, whom he married into the royal family; Isabel, the eldest, to George duke of Clarence; and Anne, the youngest, to Edward prince of Wales, son of Henry VI.; and secondly, to Richard duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard III.

This manor then passing to the crown under Henry VII., remained there till Henry VIII., in his 9th year, exchanged it with Sir Thomas Bulleyn, for other lands in Essex. From him this estate passed to William Stafford, esq., who conveyed it to the king; when that monarch demised it, with others, for a term of years, to George Harper; and the following year granted the fee of the same to Sir John Gresham, to hold *in capite;* and he died possessed of this estate in 1556.

His grandson, Sir William, sold it, in the reign of Elizabeth. to Sir Thomas Hoskins, of Oxsted, in Surrey; in whose descendants it continued till conveyed by a female heir in marriage, A.D. 1790, to Richard Gorges, esq., who at that time possessed the property.

COMBEBANK is a seat, so called from some ancient camp or fortification that had existed at or near it; *Comb*, in Saxon. signifying a camp. Most probably there was once a burial place here for the Roman soldiers, as many urns, of an antique shape, have been found in digging near the spot; while some have imagined there was a Roman military way, that led from Oldborough, in Ightham, through this place, to Keston camp, near Bromley, in this county.

Combebank was formerly esteemed part of the manor of Sundridge, and as such, now pays a portion of the ancient feefarm rent of that manor. It was for many descents the estate of the family of the Isley's, lords of Sundridge manor, with whom it remained till the reign of Elizabeth, when it was sold to pay the debts of William Isley; and purchased by the family of the Ash's, the last of which alienated it to Col. John Campbell, who, on the death of Archibald, duke of Argyll, in 1761, succeeded to that title.

This noble family is derived from a series of illustrious ancestors, of whom there are traditional accounts as far back as the reign of Fergus, the second king of Scotland, A.D. 404.

In 1545, Sir John Duncan Campbell, eldest son of Sir Colin, was advanced to the dignity of a lord of Parliament, as was

his grandson, Colin, in 1457, to the title of duke of Argyle. His descendant, Archibald, eighth earl of Argyle, was, by King Charles I., in 1641, created marquis of Argyle, in Scotland; all which titles he forfeited for treason, and was beheaded at Edinburgh, in 1661.

His son, Archibald, was, in 1663, restored by the king to the estate and title, but, in 1681, being accused of treason, he was found guilty, and though he fled, was, in 1685, taken and beheaded at Edinburgh. He married Mary, daughter of James Stuart, earl of Murray, by whom he had four sons and two daughters; of the former, Archibald was created duke of Argyle; John, the second, was of Mammore, and father of the late duke; Charles and James having been colonels in the army.

Archibald, the eldest, on his father's attainder, being reversed, was tenth duke of Argyle, and, in 1701, created duke of Argyle, marquis of Kyntire and Lorn, earl of Campbell and Cowell, viscount of Lochow and Glengla, and lord Inverary, Mull, Morvern, and Terry. He dying in 1703, left two sons and a daughter; John, the great duke of Argyle, created a peer of England, by the titles of duke and earl of Greenwich and baron Chatham; he died in 1743, leaving only four daughters, so that those titles expired with him; but as duke of Argyle in Scotland, he was succeeded by his brother, Archibald, who, in 1706, had been created earl of and viscount Ila, lord Ornsay, Dunoon, and Aros, in Scotland, but died without issue in 1761.

He was succeeded as duke of Argyle and marquis of Lorn by Col. John Campbell, of Mammore, second son of Archibald, ninth earl of Argyle, which John purchased this seat of Combebank, and made it his principal residence. He married a daughter of lord Bellenden, by whom he had John marquis of Lorn, who succeeded him, with three other sons, and one daughter. He died in 1770, and gave this estate to his third son, lord Frederic Campbell, who resided there.

His late grace, the duke of Argyle, was, in 1766, created a peer of England, by the title of BARON SUNDRIDGE, OF COMBEBANK, *in the county of Kent*, to him and his heirs male. He married, in 1759, Elizabeth, daughter of John Gunning, esq., and widow of James duke of Hamilton, who was created

a baroness in her own right, by the title of baroness Hamilton, and she died in 1790. By her he had George marquis of Lorn, the present duke, one other son, and two daughters. His grace, the present duke, married lady Caroline Villiers, daughter of the earl of Jersey.

He bears for his arms, quarterly, first and fourth, *Campbell*, and second and third, *the lordship of Lorn*. For his crest, *on a wreath, a boar's head couped, proper, or;* and for his supporters, *two lions guardant, gules.*

SUNDRIDGE is in the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and being a *peculiar*, in the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church consists of two aisle and two chancels, with a pointed steeple at the west end. Among other monuments are the following: on the north side, a fine altar tomb under a Gothic arch, the inscription lost, which, Philipott says, was for John Isley, esq.; as well as several other tombs and monuments for that family. A gravestone for Gervasius Nidd, rector of this parish; a mural monument for John Hyde, lord of the manor of Sundridge Weald and Millbrook, with many more for that family. In the north chancel is a vault for the Aynsworth's; and in the first window of the chancel, two shields, with the arms of the Isley's, in very ancient coloured glass, the first, *Ermine, a bend, gules impaling ermine, a cross gules;* the second as above, impaling Colepeper. In the third window is a shield, quarterly, first and fourth, Isley, second and third, *ermine, a fess, gules.*

In the 15th of Edward I. this church was valued at thirty marks, and subsequently estimated in the king's books at £22 13 4, the yearly tenths being £2 5 4.

In 1821 there were 194 dwellings in the parish of Sundridge; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 580, females 549, making a total of 1129 souls.

WOODLAND, once a parish of itself, though now united to Kingsdown, is in this hundred of Codsheath; whereof a description has already been given under that parish, in the hundred of Axstane.

THE PARISH AND VILLE OF BRASTED

Adjoins Sundridge to the west, called in the *Textus Roffensis* BRADESTEDE, and in Domesday, *Briestede*. It appears to have derived the name from its long narrow form, *brade*, in Saxon, signifying length, and *stede*, a place. Within this parish is a district called the *ville of Brasted*, being a *jurisdiction separate* from any hundred, having a *constable* of its own; and the remaining part of the parish, which is the most northern, is called Brasted Upland, and is in the hundred of Westerham and Eton Bridge. The church stands within the ville.

The village of Brasted is situated on the high road to Westerham, which leads through the parish westward, midway between the two ranges of the chalk and sand hills, to the former of which this parish extends about a mile in length. At a small distance southward of the village, the river Darent flows through the parish; and a little to the southward is the church. Near the foot of the chalk hills is Brasted court lodge, within the hundred of Westerham and Eaton bridge.

Near the east end of the village is *Brasted place;* southward from which is a large parcel of waste, rough, and woody ground, called Brasted Chart common, extending for two miles to the sand hills below, when it lengthens into the Weald, where it has the name of *Brasted Weald*, in like manner as the other parishes mentioned before; and at the southern boundary is the estate called Delaware. The whole of the parish, notwithstanding its great length, at no part exceeds a mile in width; the soil above the hill, excepting near the river, is but indifferent, being chalky, and, close to the southern hills, an unfertile sand; and below the latter, it is a stiff clay.

A fair is held at Brasted, on Holy Thursday, for horses and cattle.

The manor of Brasted seems to have been formerly accounted an appendage to that of Tunbridge, and was formerly part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury, previous to the Norman

Conquest; and, under the general title of the lands of the archbishop, was so entered in the survey of Domesday.

Soon after the reign of the Conqueror it fell to the eminent family of the Clare's, afterwards earls of Gloucester and Hertford, who held it of the archbishop of Canterbury in grand sergeantry. Richard earl of Gloucester died possessed of this manor at his house at Eschemerfield, in this county, in the 46th of Henry III., and his grandson, Gilbert, died possessor of the same in the 7th of Edward II., being slain at the battle of Bannockburn. On the partition of this inheritance by his three sisters, coheirs, this manor was allotted to Margaret, the second, then wife of Hugh de Audley, who was, in the 11th of Edward III., created in Parliament earl of Gloucester. He died possessed of the manor of Brasted in the 21st year of that reign, leaving an only daughter and heir, Margaret, then the wife of Ralph Stafford, who in her right possessed the same.

He was so high in the favor of Edward III., that he selected him as one of the knights of the Garter at its first institution, and soon after created him earl of Stafford. He died possessed of this manor in the 46th year of that reign, when it descended to his great grandson, Humphrey Stafford, created duke of Buckingham in the reign of Henry VI. He was afterwards slain at the battle of Northampton, fighting valiantly on the king's part; and from him it descended to his great grandson, Edward duke of Buckingham, who, in the reign of Henry VIII., was found guilty of high treason, and beheaded on Tower hill. His lands becoming escheated to the crown, so remained till the king, in his 31st year, granted this manor to Sir Henry Isley. In the reign of Edward VI. the lands of Sir Henry Isley were disgaveled, and he being attainted and executed at Sevenoak, his estates were confiscated to the crown, when Philip and Mary, for a consideration, restored to William Isley, his son and heir, the manor of Brasted. This estate was subsequently sold, for the payment of his debts, to Sampson and Samuel Lennard. In the 22d of Elizabeth, Samuel Lennard released all his right in this estate to Sampson, who married the sister of lord Dacre; and it continued, as already related under the head of Chevening, to Thomas Lennard, afterwards earl of Sussex. He died possessed of the property, when descending to his two daughters, it was conveyed, with other estates, to

major general James Stanhope, who died possessed of it in 1721, when his grandson, the earl of Stanhope, subsequently inherited the same.

This manor is now charged with a yearly feefarm rent of £5 2 3, payable to the crown.

BRASTED PLACE is an estate here, once accounted a manor, and was formerly called *Crow place*, from having been the residence of a family of that name, and was previously called Stockets, for the same reason.

Walter de Stocket, sometimes written in old deeds Stocks, held this estate of the earl of Gloucester in the reign of Edward I. Simon Stocket possessed this estate in the next reign, of Edward II., and built a chancel in the church of Brasted, as appears by a deed of that time.

His daughter, Lora, carried the property in marriage to Richard Boare, who was succeeded by his son, John, as he was by his heir, Nicholas, who leaving an only daughter and heir, Joan, she carried Stockets in marriage to Thomas Crow, the younger son of Thomas, of an ancient family in Suffolk. From this family it acquired the name of Crow place, and continued in their descendants till the latter end of the reign of James I., when Mr. William Crow alienated it to Robert Heath, afterwards Sir Robert. He was a great sufferer for his loyalty to Charles I., and compelled to fly the kingdom, when he died at Calais, in 1649; upon which, his body was brought over and interred in this church, where a stately monument was erected in memory of him and his wife. After his death, this estate was sequestered by Parliament, but, upon the restoration of Charles II., Edward Heath, esq., his son, took possession of the estate, in whose family it continued till Sir John Heath leaving an only daughter and heir, she carried it in marriage to George Verney, lord Willoughby, afterwards dean of Windsor. They bear for their arms, *three crosses recercele, or, a chief, vaire, ermine, and ermines.*

His descendant, Sir Richard Verney, flourished in the reigns of Elizabeth and James I., and died in 1630, when his youngest son succeeded to this estate, on the death of his nephew, William, son of his eldest brother, Sir Grevile, without issue. In the first Parliament of William and Mary, he was chosen to represent the county of Warwickshire, and being a descend-

ant, through the female heir of Grevile, from Robert lord Willoughby of Broke, he laid claim to that title in Parliament, which being granted, he had summons accordingly. He died in 1711, and was succeeded by his second but eldest surviving son, George, who married, as before mentioned, the daughter and heir of Sir John Heath; and his great grandson, John Peyto Verney, lord Willoughby de Broke, alienated it to lord Frederic Campbell, who soon after conveyed the property to John Turton, esq., M.D., who subsequently possessed the same.

DELAWARE is a seat of great antiquity, situated in the southern part of this parish, and was the residence of gentlemen of that name as early as the reign of Henry II., of whom, Robert Delaware, the last, died about the latter end of the reign of Edward III., without issue male. His daughter, Dionisia, carried this seat in marriage to William Paulin, of Paulin's, in this parish, in whose descendants it continued till the reign of Henry VI., when William Paulin leaving an only daughter, she conveyed this manor to John Seyliard, of Seyliard, in Hever. His descendant, of the same name, resided at Delaware, was created a baronet in 1661, and bore for his arms, *Azure a chief, ermine*, which was the ancient paternal coat of that family. From him this seat descended to Sir Thomas Seyliard, bart., who, in 1700, alienated it to Henry Streatfield, esq. of Chidingstone, whose great grandson, Henry, of High Street house, afterwards possessed it.

BRASTED is in the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and being a *peculiar*, in the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church, situated in the ville of this parish, is dedicated to St. Martin, and consists of three aisles and two chancels. Among other monuments are the following: in the north and middle aisles, memorials for the family of the Kidder's; in the great chancel, tombs for the Bull's and the Newman's; and near the altar, a monument for the wife of Thomas Seyliard, esq. Here is a beautiful altar tomb for Dorothy, daughter of William Crowmer, esq. of Tunstall; and in the east window, a shield, with the arms of Christ church, Canterbury. A memorial for Margaret, daughter of the Hon. John Verney; a mural tomb for Margaret Mennes; and on the north side, a handsome monument, whereon is the

figure of a judge in his robes, erected for Sir Robert Heath. In the middle of the great chancel is a very ancient gravestone, with an inscription in brass capitals, of the 13th century.

This church was valued in the king's books at £22 6 8, the yearly tenths being £2 4 8.

In 1821 there were 159 dwellings in the parish of Brasted; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 501, females 469, making a total of 970 souls.

Drawn by G. Shepherd. Engraved by H. Adlard.

WESTERHAM,

KENT.

THE HUNDRED OF

WESTERHAM AND EATON BRIDGE

LIES the next southwestward from that of Codsheath. It is described in the survey of Domesday by the name of the *hundred of Ostreham*, as it was, in the reign of Edward III., by that of the hundred of *Westerham*; soon after which, the name of the lower half hundred, called Eaton bridge, was added, by both of which denominations it has ever since been called.

It contains the parishes of Westerham and Eaton bridge, with the churches of those parishes; also a part of the parishes of Brasted and Cowden, the churches of which are in another district.

WESTERHAM, usually called and frequently written WESTRAM, is the next parish westward from Brasted, being called in Domesday *Oistreham*, and in the *Textus Roffensis*, *Westerham*, taking its name from its situation at the western extremity of the county.

Westerham is a parish of large extent, and, like those before described in a similar situation, much longer than it is wide. It extends to the summit of the range of chalk hills, northward, where it bounds to Cowden, and southward, beyond the sand hills, extends to the Weald. In the whole, it is about five miles and a half from north to south, and on an average, in breadth, about two miles and a half, bounding westward on Surrey. The soil is much the same as the last described parishes adjoining the double range of hills. The high road from Sevenoak and Maidstone crosses this parish midway between the hills, towards Surrey, where is situated the town of Westerham, a very healthy and pleasant spot. At the west end is a seat, for many years possessed by a family of the name of Price, in which it continued; and at the east end is the church and parsonage and many genteel houses. The high

road from Bromley, by Leaves green, joins the Sevenoak road on the north side of the town, near which is the mansion of Squerrie's. The river Darent takes its rise in this parish, and having supplied the grounds, runs along the south side of the town, and passes by Hill park, towards Brasted. Northward hence, the land rises about a mile and a half to the foot of the chalk hills, near which, close to the boundaries of Surrey, is Gasum. From the town, southward, to the summit of the sand hills, is, about two miles over, a very sterile soil, interspersed with commons, waste rough grounds, and woods, among which, bounding on Surrey, is Kent Hatch, taking its name from its situation; and, on the summit of the hill, the hamlet of Well street, and a seat, called Mariners, which belonged to Mr. Stafford Whitaker. Thence, down the hill, this parish extends two miles farther, southward, in the Weald; and, near the boundaries, is the estate of Broxham. The abbot of Westminster, in the 25th of Edward III., obtained the grant of a market, to be held weekly, and an annual fair, on the 19th of September, for cattle and toys.

In 1596, a very extraordinary revolution of nature took place in this parish. Near the common highway, called Ockham hill, leading from London towards Buckhurst, in Sussex, were two closes separated by a hedge, when a portion sank, in three mornings, eighty feet at least, and so on from day to day, for the space of eleven days. This large trench of ground, containing, in length, eighty perches, and in breadth, twenty-eight, began with the hedges and trees thereon to loosen from the rest of the surrounding land, and slide and shoot altogether, southward, day and night. The ground of two water pits, with twelve feet of water, having several tufts of alders and ash trees growing in their bottoms, with a large rock of stone beneath, were not only removed from their places and carried southward, but mounted, and became hills, with their sedge flags and black mud upon the top of them. The whole measure of the breaking ground was at least nine acres. The witnesses to the truth of this very extraordinary circumstance, were Robert Bostock, esq., justice of the peace; Sir John Studley, vicar; John Dowling, gent.; and many other persons in the neighbourhood.

Dr. Benjamin Hoadley, late bishop of Winchester, was born

in this parish, as also general Wolfe, in 1727, of whom we have previously made mention.

In the reign of the Conqueror, this place was in the possession of Eustace earl of Bologne, and was entered in Domesday under the title of his possessions. This place was afterwards held by the family of the Camvill's, called in Latin *De Cana Villa*, whose ancestor came into England with William the Conqueror, having borne for their arms, *Azure, three lions passant, argent;* which coat still remains carved on the cloisters of Christ church, in Canterbury.

It appears by the second scutage, levied in the reign of King John, that Thomas de Camvill held this place of the honour of Bologne, as did his descendant, John de Camvill, in the reign of Henry III.

Roger de Camvill, son of Walter, a younger son of Richard de Camvill, founder of Cumbe abbey, held it in the same reign. He left issue an only daughter, Matilda, who married Nigell de Moubray, who died without issue; soon after which, it passed to the crown, where it remained till the reign of Edward I., who, by letters patent, in his 20th year, granted the manors of Westram and Edulnebrugg, now Eaton bridge, to Walter, abbot of Westminster, for certain religious duties and the repose of the soul of his queen, Alianor. They continued there till the final dissolution of the abbey, under Henry VIII., when that prince granted them to Sir John Gresham, who was of Titsey, in Surrey, sheriff of London in 1537, and lord mayor in 1547. He died in 1556, having been a great benefactor to the poor, on whose demise he was possessed of the manors of Westerham and Eaton bridge, held of Queen Elizabeth, *in capite*. He was twice married, and left issue by his first wife, five sons and six daughters, of whom, William was his heir, and John, of Fulham, in Middlesex. William succeeded his father in these estates, and died at Lempsfield, in the 21st of Elizabeth, in whose descendants this estate continued down to Marmaduke Gresham, esq., created a baronet in 1660, who died possessed of these manors in 1696, greatly advanced in years.

Sir Charles, his great grandson, died possessed of this estate in 1718, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Marmaduke Gresham, who, in 1740, sold this manor to John

Warde, esq., of Squeries, in this parish, who died possessed of it in 1775, and his eldest son, John Warde, esq. of Squeries, afterwards possessed the property.

A court-leet and court-baron is held for this manor.

Squeries is a manor which gave both surname and residence to a family that resided here, as appears by ancient evidences as early as the reign of Henry III., when John de Squeries held it, and bore for his arms, *A squirrel brouzing on a hazel nut*, which coat was formerly painted in the windows of Westerham church.

His descendant, Thomas Squerie, possessed this estate in the reign of Henry VI., in the 17th year of which prince, he died possessed of the estate, without issue male, leaving two daughters, coheirs of whom, Margaret the eldest, married Sir William Cromer, of Tunstal, in this county, and Dorothy, Richard Mervin, of Fontels, in Wiltshire. On the division of their inheritance, this estate was allotted to Sir William Cromer, whose descendant, William, possessed it in the reign of Henry VIII., when it passed to the crown, and was by that king, in his 36th year, granted among other premises to Thomas Cawarden, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service. This estate then passed through a variety of names, and was ultimately possessed, in 1751, by John Warde, esq.

A court-baron is held for this manor, which pays a fee-farm rent to the crown, of seventeen shillings per annum.

Gasum is an estate in this parish, lying at the foot of the chalk hill, and was anciently possessed by the family of the Shelley's. One of the latter race, Thomas, in the 46th of Edward III., settled it on Thomas, his son, whose descendant, in the reign of Henry VII., demised it by sale to John Potter, who had purchased another estate in Well street, where his descendant resided till the reign of James I. Thomas Potter, of Well street, died possessed of this manor, leaving an only daughter, married to Sir John Rivers, bart., of Chafford, to whom she carried this manor. Sir John Rivers thus becoming possessed both of Gaysum and Well street, joined with his eldest son in the conveyance of the latter property to Mr. Thomas Smith of London. He, about the year 1661, alienated it to Robert Whitby, whose son, Samuel, in 1664, passed it away to John Bridges, esq., who left two daughters

and coheirs, one of whom married Mr. Francis Ellison. The other sister dying without issue, he possessed it in right of his wife, and their son, Mr. Thomas Ellison, died possessed of the same, and his devisee inherited Well street estate.

Gaysum continued in the possession of the descendants of Sir John Rivers till the reign of King William, when it was sold with that of Squeries to the Earl of Jersey, since which period it has had the same owners as that seat, the inheritance having become vested in John Warde, esq. of Squeries.

Broxham is a manor situated below the sand hills, in that part of the parish within the Weald, and so close to the boundaries, that a part is within the adjoining parish of Eaton bridge. It was anciently possessed by the family of the Isleys.

John de Isley was lord of this manor, and obtained a charter of free warren in the 11th of Edward II.; from that name it passed into the family of the Ashway's; Stephen de Ashway obtained license to enclose a park in the 41st of Edward III.; and at the latter end of the reign of Richard II. Sir John de Clinton was possessed of this manor, of which he died owner in the 20th of that reign.

He had by Idonea his wife, one of the sisters of William de Say, two sons, William and Thomas; the former died during the life of his father, leaving a son, William, who, on his grandfather's death, by reason of the descent of Idonea his grandmother, bore the title of Lord Clinton and Say, by which he received a summons to Parliament. He died in the 10th of Henry VI., leaving a son, John, who, soon after his father's death, passed away his manor to Thomas Squerie, of Squeries Court, in this parish, with which it descended in the same line of ownership, to Michael Beresford, who possessed it in the reign of Elizabeth. His grandson, Michael Beresford, of Squeries, alienated Broxham to Mr. Thomas Petley, of Filston, in Shoreham, in whose family it descended in like manner as their seat in Riverhead to Elizabeth, widow of Charles Petley, in whom the possession became vested.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

Hill Park is a seat in this parish, formerly the residence of a family called, in old dateless deeds, De Valomis, in English, Valons, which name it bore till some years back, after which

the estate continued for many descents in the family of the Casinghursts, one of whom, in the reign of Henry VII., conveyed it to John Islip, abbot of Westminster, who gave it to his servant, William Middleton, who much improved this estate. He died in 1557, leaving fifteen children; and in his family it remained till the latter end of the reign of Elizabeth, on which it was conveyed to Jacob Verzelini, esq., of Downe, in this county, but born a Venetian, who died possessed of the property in the 5th of James I. By his daughter it went in marriage to Peter Manning, esq., of Trowmer, in the parish of Downe, one of whose descendants, in the reign of Charles I., passed it away to Mr. Ralph Manning, of London, another branch of the same family; when it was, in 1718, alienated to Colonel Henry Harrison; and after passing through several names, became vested in Wills Hill, earl of Helsborough. He having nearly rebuilt the seat, and greatly improved the park and grounds, changed its former name of *Valons* to that of HILL PARK, and resided there till the death of his lady, in 1780, after which he sold it to John Cottin, esq., who resided here, and served the office of sheriff.

The *College of St. Peter*, at Lingfield, in Surrey, was possessed of a house called Painters, in Westerham, with other lands in this parish, surrendered to the king at the suppression under Henry VIII., which were afterwards held *in capite*, by knight's service. This house was, for many years an inn, known by the name of the King's Arms.

Henry VIII, in his 31st year, granted to Sir John Gresham the manor of Lovestede, in Surrey and Kent, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service. One of the former owners of this manor, John Lovestede, of Westerham, lies buried in this church.

WESTERHAM is in the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Malling. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a large handsome building consisting of a nave, two side aisles and a cross aisle, an additional gallery having been built for the accommodation of the parishioners.

Among other monuments are the following: in the cross aisle, at the west end, a gravestone near the south door, with the figure of a priest in brass, for Sir William Dyne; a me-

morial for Bridget and Catherine Manning; and a stone for Richard Hayward. Near the font, a memento for Nicholas Manning, and many more for the same family, too numerous for insertion.

Over the south door, is a plain neat monument of marble, in memory of the brave General James Wolfe, son of Colonel Edward Wolfe, and Henrietta his wife, born in this parish, January 2d, 1727, who died in America, September 13, 1759; he was the conqueror of Quebec; and beneath are inscribed these lines:

> Whilst George in sorrow bows his laurell'd head,
> And bids the artist grace the soldier dead,
> We raise no sculptured trophies to thy name,
> Brave youth! the fairest is the list of fame;
> Proud of thy birth, we boast th' auspicious year—
> Struck with thy fall, we shed a general tear;
> With humble grief, inscribe one artless stone,
> And from thy matchless honours date our own.

A memorial for the family of the Thorpe's, erected in 1703; another for Thomas Potter, gent.; a gravestone for William Myddleton; and a brass plate and inscription for John Lovestede, of this parish. On the south side, a mural monument for Anthony Earning; another mural grave for Thomas Potter, esq. of Westerham; and in the middle aisle, two gravestones, with figures and inscriptions in brass, for the family of the Stacy's. In the north aisle, several graves for the Dalling's; a mural monument for Thomas Hardy; another for Mary Street; and in the cross aisle, an elegant mural monument for Thomas Knight, esq. Near the latter, is another for Eleanor, youngest daughter of Sir Thomas Seyliard; a gravestone for the family of the Heath's, of Leigh; and another, within the rails, bearing an inscription, stating that Sir John Crisp, bart., paved this communion space in memory of Nicholas Crisp, esq., who died in 1697, aged seventeen, the arms above, *on a chevron, five horseshoes.*

By an ancient valuation made in the 15th of Edward I., this church was valued at fifty marks, and afterwards estimated in the king's books at £19 19 4½, the yearly tenths being £1 19 11½.

In 1821 there were 301 dwellings in the parish of Wester-

ham; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 880, females 862, making a total of 1742 souls.

Southward from Westerham lies EATON BRIDGE, called in old records *Eddelnesbrege*, and *Edilnebrigg*, and in Latin, *Pons Edelmi*. The present name of Eaton bridge is a corruption from its true appellation of *Eden bridge*, acquired from its situation on the banks of the little river Eden, one of the heads of the river Medway.

A small district of the eastern part of this parish is in the hundred of Somerden.

THE PARISH OF EATON BRIDGE lies some little distance below the ridge of sand hills, southward, and is accordingly accounted within that part of the county called *the Weald*, being bounded westward by the county of Surrey, whence the little river Eden enters this county, and directs its course across the parish, and receiving in its way several small streams, especially from the sand hills, flows on eastward, and joins the Medway, at Penshurst. The river Eden crosses the village of Eaton bridge, which has the church on the east side; about half a mile south of which is Gabriel's house, that belonged to Mr. John Stanford; a little farther, the two hamlets of Marsh green and Stanford's end; and about a mile distant, on the other side, Marlepit hill and Medhurst row. The country here, and for the most part of the neighbouring parishes in this district, bears a far different aspect from that before described above the hills, the soil being, for the most part, a deep tillage land of stiff clay, moist and swampy, the hedge roads round the fields broad, and much filled with spreading oaks; the roads deep, miry, broad, and much covered with green swerd; and the farm-houses are old-fashioned timber buildings, standing singly and much dispersed, throwing a gloom over the surrounding country. It is, notwithstanding, very healthy, the soil fertile, and it possesses altogether many local advantages, equally profitable both to the landlord and occupier. A fair is held annually in the village, on St. Mark's day, for cattle and toys.

An extraordinary and surprising agitation of the waters,

without any perceptible motion of the earth, having been observed in many parts of England, on the 1st of November, 1755, the same phenomenon appeared in this parish, in a pond, about an acre in size, across which was a post and rail fence nearly covered by the water. Some persons hearing a noise, hastened to the spot, and saw the water open in the centre, when the railing and post were visible to the bottom; at the same time they observed the water dashing over a bank, about two foot high, and perpendicular to the pond. They did not feel the least motion upon the shore, and there was a dead calm.

On January 24th, 1758, about two o'clock in the morning, a slight shock of an earthquake was felt in this parish and the adjacent parts, which shook the furniture in the houses, and went off with a noise like a gust of wind; it alarmed the inhabitants, but no damage ensued.

The manor of Westerham is *paramount* over this parish, which was formerly within its own manor, called the manor of Eaton bridge, as may be plainly seen in the description of that parish and the several records, from which it is drawn up.

The manor of Stangrave, otherwise Eaton bridge, claims over the greater part of this parish, notwithstanding it has the above-described manor *paramount* over it, and anciently gave name to a family who made it their capital mansion. Robert de Stangrave obtained a charter of *free warren* for him and his heirs, in the 6th of Edward I., for his demesne lands in Eaton bridge and Hockenden, in this county; and his descendant, Robert de Stangrave, was with Edward I. at the siege of Carlaverock, and there received the honour of knighthood.

He died possessed of this manor in the 12th of Edward III., soon after which, it passed to John Dynley, who immediately alienated his interest to Hugh de Audley, earl of Gloucester. He died possessed of the estate in the 21st year of the same reign, leaving an only daughter and heir, Margaret, then wife of Ralph Stafford, who in her right became possessed of this manor, then styled the manor of *Edenbrugge*, otherwise *Stangrave*, who was afterwards made earl of Stafford. In his descendants, dukes of Buckingham, it continued down to Edward

duke of Buckingham, who, in the 13th of Henry VIII., was attainted, and beheaded on Tower hill. It remained vested in the crown till that prince granted it to Sir John Gresham, who died possessed of the manor of Stangrave in 1556, holding it *in capite*. In his descendants it remained till Sir Charles Gresham, bart., in the reign of Queen Anne, alienated it to Mr. Richard Hill, whose only daughter carried it in marriage to Mr. Dyke, of Burwash, in Sussex, on whose death it passed to their son, Richard Still Dyke, esq. He devised this manor to his surviving widow, and she conveyed it by sale to Thomas Streatfield, esq. of Oxsted, in Surrey; in whose family it continued down to Mrs. Sophia Streatfield, in whom it became vested.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

There is in this parish a farm called STANGRAVE, a reputed manor for many years, sold to Mr. John Basset, whose grandson, Mr. Michael Basset, afterwards possessed the same.

SHARNDEN was once a manor, though now reputed as being within that of Stangrave; it was anciently part of the possessions of the branch of the family of the Cobham's settled at Sterborough castle, in Surrey.

In the 14th of Edward III., Reginald de Cobham obtained a charter of *free warren* within his lands in this parish. He was son of John de Cobham, of Cobham, in this county, and died possessed of this manor in the 35th year of the above reign, leaving Reginald his son and heir, who was lord of Sterborough, whence this branch of the Cobham's was thenceforward denominated the Cobham's of Sterborough, having borne for their arms, *On a chevron, three stars of six points.*

His grandson, Sir Thomas de Cobham, died possessed of the estate in the 11th of Edward IV., leaving an only daughter, Anne, who carried it in marriage to Sir Edward Borough, of Gainsborough, in Lincolnshire, whose son and heir, Thomas, was summoned to Parliament in the 21st of Henry VIII., by the title of lord Burgh.

After that period, this manor descended to his grandson, Thomas lord Burgh, who died possessed of the same in the 40th of Elizabeth, having had by Francis his wife, Robert,

who died without issue during the life of his father; and four daughters, who became his coheirs; Elizabeth, married to George Brooke, esq.; Frances, to Francis Coppinger, esq.; Anne, to Sir Drew Drury; and Catherine, to Thomas Knyvett, esq.; and they, in the reign of James I., joined in the conveyance of this manor to Sir Thomas Richardson. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Beaumont, and widow of Sir John Ashburnham, who, in 1627, was created baroness Cramond, in Scotland, with an entail on her male issue by her second husband.

Her son succeeded as lord Richardson of Cramond, having been member for Norfolk in the 1st and 2d of Charles II., one of whose descendants alienated this estate to the family of the Stanford's; in which name it continued till sold to Mr. James Glover, who resided there.

Marsh green is a district, the manorial rights of which are appendant to the manor of Cowdham, with which it was purchased, in 1707, of Thomas Lennard, earl of Sussex, by Thomas Streatfield, who dying in 1730, left one son, Thomas, and a daughter, Martha; Thomas, the son, was of Sevenoak, who dying in 1722, left by his wife, one son, Thomas, and two daughters; Thomas Streatfield, the son, of Sevenoak, who married Miss Green, by whom he had issue.

The estate or farm, however, called also Marsh green, which lies in the district above mentioned, adjoining Sterborough, was some years back alienated by Robert Nightingale, esq. to Mr. Francis Green, whose son, Thomas, aftewards died seized of it, leaving his widow surviving, whose son, Mr. Francis Green, of London, sold it to the Hon. Mr. Lumley, who possessed the same.

Browns is a small manor, whereof the mansion has been long since demolished, but the foundation and the moat are still visible. This place was formerly the seat of a family bearing that name, one of whom, Hamon de Brown, died possessed of it in the 4th of Edward III., but leaving no issue, he bequeathed it by will to his kinsman, Thomas Brown, who dying likewise without issue in the same reign, his sister Agnes, then wife of Laurence de Bedenstede, became by his will, as also by inheritance, the possessor of this manor.

He soon after alienated the property to his wife's kinsman, Henry At-Browns; in whose descendants it continued till the reign of Henry VIII., when Ursula, daughter and heir of Hamon Brown, carried it in marriage to Mr. John at Lee, of Effingham, whose descendant, John Lee, in the reign of Charles II., conveyed it by sale to Mr. James Beecher, whose ancestors bore for their arms, *Vaire, argent, and gules, on a canton, or, a stag's head caboshed, vert.* He died in 1749, and by will devised Browns to his wife's grandson, Beecher Walter, on whose death, intestate, it went to his two brothers, William and George, and on a partition of their estates, this property of Eaton bridge fell to the share of the former, who afterwards sold it to John Boddington, esq.; after which it passsed to the Hon. Mr. Lumley, in whom it became vested.

GABRIELS is a house in this parish, anciently the residence of a branch of the family of the Seyliard's, of Brasted. Nicholas Seyliard, gent. of Brasted, resided here and died possessed of it in 1625, leaving two sons, Robert and John, and two daughters. From the name of Seyliard it passed into that of Petley, and John, second son of Ralph Petley, esq. of Riverhead, alienated it to Mr. John Stanford; in whose son, Gabriel, it became vested.

Independent of the above, there are several small manors in this parish, viz. *Hilders farm,* the property of Mr. Lumley; *Scanes,* belonging to Henry Streatfield, esq.; *Crouch house,* to Mr. Richard Killick; and *Cohen Bere,* to John Major Henniker, esq.

EATON BRIDGE is in the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Malling. The church, dedicated to Sts. Peter and Paul, is a large handsome building, with a spire steeple at the west end, where are the remains of a rood loft and some good stained glass.

Among other monuments are the following: in the chancel, one for John Stanford and his wife; on the north side of the altar, the figure of a man in brass, and an inscription for John Seyliard. Within the altar rails are several gravestones for the Jemets, of Skaines; and a monument for Nicholas Seyliard, gent. of Gabriels. In the south chancel, an altar tomb,

for Thomas Martyn, esq.; and at the east end, a mural tomb for William Seyliard, esq. of Paulins, obiit 1595.

This church is considered as a chapel to Westerham, and therefore not noted separately in the king's books.

In 1821 there were 230 dwellings in the parish of Eaton bridge; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 764, females 690, making a total of 1454 souls.

THE HUNDRED OF BROMLEY AND BECKENHAM

Is called in Domesday the hundred of *Bronlei*, by which name it was distinguished in the 7th of Edward I., but, in the 20th of Edward III., was known by its present title, the additional one of *Beckenham* being in fact no more than that of one of the two half hundreds into which this was originally divided. Two constables have jurisdiction here. In the 7th of Edward I. the king and the bishop of Rochester were the *lords paramount*.

It contains the parishes of *Beckenham* and *Bromley*, and the churches of both those parishes.

Beckenham is situated wholly within the county of Kent, though its bounds extend westward to that of Surrey. It is called in Domesday Bacheham, and in the *Textus Roffensis* Becceham, being so called from its situation on the river Ravensborne: *becc*, in Saxon, signifying a river, and *ham*, a village or dwelling.

The parish of Beckenham, like those already described, is interspersed throughout with handsome seats and buildings, mostly inhabited by persons of fashion and opulence. Its small distance from the metropolis, and pleasant and healthy situation, render it a most desirable retreat from the hurry and bustle of the town. It is watered on the eastern side by the river Ravensborne, and in the middle, by a small stream, which being joined by another at the north-west corner of this parish, meets the above river below at Lewisham. The village is situated on the northern side of the parish, having the church, and Fox grove, near the east end; and at a small distance northward, is Beckenham place and park, the house of which only is in this parish, the out-offices being in that of Bromley. This estate is now in the possession of John Cator, esq., standing in the centre of the park, which is about three miles and a half in circumference, watered by a branch of the Ravensborne, the current having been much widened within

the grounds. The present mansion was erected by John Cator, esq., uncle of the present owner; and the park occupies portions of the hundreds of Bromley and Blackheath. This is a very beautiful seat, and the whole surrounding grounds are embellished with infinite taste, and kept up in a style worthy its affluent proprietor. Southward of the village stand the seats of Kelseys and the Temple, both of which belonged to lord Gwydir, but now to Mrs. King. The house was originally built by Mr. Kirkman, of London, but great improvements have since been made, by a shrubbery walk and communication with Langley park. Near the north-west part of the parish is the hamlet of Elmers end; and contiguous is Eden farm, the property of lord Auckland; those of Penge green and Kent house being at the boundary, towards Sydenham. The soil here is composed of gravel and clay, with a red sand, though towards Bromley some parts are fertile.

Several writers have conjectured that the *great council*, composed of the clergy and nobility, said to have been convened at *Becanceld* in 694, by Withred king of Kent, was held at this place; but Camden, Dr. Plott, Mr. Johnson of Cranbrooke, and others, have with much more probability supposed it to have taken place at *Bapchild*, about a mile and a half eastward from Sittingborne, on the high road from London to Canterbury, midway between the coast of Kent and London, and a much more convenient place for a *Kentish council.*

This place, at the period of William the Conqueror, was part of the possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux, and entered in Domesday under the title of his lands, having been held of that bishop by Ansgotus de Rochester.

In the reign of Edward I. the manor of Beckenham was held by a family called in old Latin records *De Rupella*, in French *De la Rochell*, and in English *Rokell*, which came originally from Rochelle, in France. Richard de la Rokele died possessed of it in the 5th of Edward I., who was succeeded in its possession by Philip de la Rokele, who held it at his death, and left it to his daughter and heir, Isolda, who carried it in marriage to Sir William Bruyn; in memory of which marriage the arms of Bruyn, quartering those of Rokele, viz. *Azure, a cross moline, or*, quartering *Lozengy, ermine, and gules*, were emblazoned in one of the windows of Barham church, in this

county. These two shields of arms are now borne, with the other quarterings, by the earl of Derby.

His descendant, Sir Ingelram, or Ingram, Bruin, knight, of South Okendon, in Essex, died possessed of this manor and advowson of the church in 1400, to which his son, Maurice, succeeded. His descendant, Sir Henry Bruin, in the reign of Henry IV., left two daughters, each of whom had three husbands. The former married, first, Robert Harleston, esq. of Essex; secondly, Sir John Heveningham; and lastly, William Berners, esq.: the latter married, first, William Malory, esq., by whom she had no issue; secondly, William Brandon, who was standard-bearer to Henry VII. in Bosworth field, where he was slain, by whom she had issue Sir Charles Brandon, duke of Suffolk. He sometimes resided at this place, not, we imagine, as a proprietor, but a lessee, having entertained Henry VIII. with great pomp, upon his journey to Hever, to visit his repudiated wife, Anne of Cleves. His mother, the coheir of Sir Henry Bruin, before mentioned, married, lastly, Thomas Tirril, esq. of Herne, in Essex, whose family is said to have enjoyed the honour of knighthood in a direct line for more than 400 years, and to be descended from Sir Walter Tirril, who held land in Essex, having been the individual who shot William Rufus in the New forest. The several branches of the Tirril's bear the same coat, with their respective differences, *Argent, two chevrons azure, within a bordure, engrailed gules.*

These two daughters of Sir Henry Bruin divided this manor and the advowson of the church between them; and their husbands successively, in right of their wives, possessed the same in moieties. Alice, wife of John Heveningham, held at her death the half part of the manor of Begenham, and the moiety of the advowson *in capite;* and John Berners, her son, afterwards enjoyed the same. This moiety was afterwards alienated to Robert Leigh in the reign of King James, from whom it descended to his grandson, Mr. Henry Snelgrave, who, in the reign of Charles I., passed it away to Mr. Walter St. John.

Elizabeth, second daughter of Sir Henry Bruin, possessed the other moiety, and it appears as if her second husband, Sir William Brandon, by promoting the interests of the earl of

Richmond, had forfeited his interest in this manor, in the the 2d of Richard III.; Elizabeth his wife, however, afterwards married to Sir Thomas Tirril, died possessed of the moiety of both the manor and advowson.

This moiety descended to Sir George Dalston, of Cumberland, who, in the reign of Charles I., alienated it to Sir Patrick Curwen. He, in the same reign, conveyed his interest to Sir Oliver St. John, of Battersea, in Surrey, from whom it went to Mr. Walter St. John, who having before purchased the other moiety of this manor and advowson of Mr. Henry Snelgrave, he became possessed of the entire fee of both.

In that family it continued to baron St. John, of Battersea, who died in 1742, in the ninetieth year of his age, being succeeded in this manor and advowson by Henry St. John, viscount Bolingbroke, his only son by his first wife, Mary, daughter and coheir of the earl of Warwick. By his second wife, daughter of George Pillesary, a French officer under Louis XIV., he had three sons and one daughter, of which sons, John, the second, became ancestor of the male line, the other two having died unmarried.

Henry lord St. John died in 1751, without issue, when his titles and estates descended to his nephew, Frederick, son of John, second and only surviving son of Henry viscount St. John, by his second wife, above mentioned.

Frederick viscount Bolingbroke, in 1773, passed away the manor of Beckenham by sale to John Cator, esq., whose nephew, John, is the present possessor.

Foxgrove is a manor in this parish, having anciently had owners of that surname, to which family succeeded that of Bartholomew de Burghersh, who, in the 29th of Edward III., left Bartholomew, his son and heir; Henry, a younger son; and one daughter. Bartholomew, the son, in the 43d year of the same reign, passed it away to Sir Walter de Pavely, in whom it remained till the reign of Richard II., when it was conveyed to the Vaux's, of the county of Northampton, written in ancient deeds *De Vallibus,* an ancient family, which bore for its arms, *Chequy, argent, and azure;* the several branches of that race having uniformly borne the chequy in their arms. In the latter name Foxgrove remained till the reign of Henry VI., when it was alienated to John Greene,

esq., in whose family it continued till the reign of Henry VIII., when it was demised by sale, to one Beversea, whose descendant passed it away to Luke Hollingworth. It afterwards passed through several names, and became divided into three parts; the woodlands and store farm were purchased by John Cator, esq., but the manor of Foxgrove passed to the name of Timewell, for his life, and afterwards to John and Edward Brydges, esqs. of Wotton, in this county, who, about the year 1765, conveyed it by sale to Jones Raymond, esq. of Langley, in this parish, on whose death, in 1766, it went by demise to Amy, his sister, widow of Peter Burnell, esq. At her death she left it to her son, Sir William Burnell, bart., who sold it to his nephew, Sir Peter Burnell, knight and baronet, since created lord Gwydir, who, in 1792, exchanged it for other lands in this parish, with John Cator, esq. of Beckenham place, the present proprietor.

KELSEYS is a seat of note, which, as early as the reign of Henry III., had owners of that name, as appears by deeds of the period. In the reign of Richard II., it was possessed by the family of the Brograve's, who resided there, one of whose descendants, A.D. 1688, conveyed this estate by sale to Peter Burnell, esq., in whose descendants it continued down to lord Gwydir, in 1796.

LANGLEY PARK is a seat of some eminence, formerly accounted a manor. In the reign of the Conqueror it was in the possession of Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the title of whose lands it was entered in Domesday record.

This place afterwards passed into the possession of the family of the Malmains', who were settled at Waldershare, in this county, at the period of the Conqueror. John de Malmains obtained a charter of *free warren* for his lands in Begenham, in the 12th of Edward II., which was renewed to Henry Malmains, of Cliffe, in the 3d of Edward III.

In the 20th of Edward III., Nicholas Malmains held half a knight's fee of the king in Begenham. He died in the 23d year of that reign, before the end of which, the property of this manor was transferred by sale to the Langley's, a name, most probably, derived from this place, though the family itself has been long since extinct.

The last of this name was Ralph Langley, who died in the

30th of Henry VI., having by will directed that Langley should be sold for the payment of his debts; in pursuance of which, it was passed away by sale to John Violett, who bore for his arms, *Gules, three coronets, or.* His descendants enjoyed the estate until the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII., when it was conveyed to John Stile, alderman of London, who left a son, Sir Humphrey, who died in 1557, leaving three sons, Edmund, of Langley; Oliver, who was sheriff of London; and Nicholas, who was knighted. Edmund Stile, the eldest son, who died in 1650, was succeeded in this estate by his brother, William, the eldest son of William Stile, by his second wife, Mary. This estate was afterwards conveyed in marriage through several names, until Amy, a daughter of Jones Raymond, esq., conveyed it to Peter Burnell, esq., in marriage, the estate having been settled upon her in tail general, with remainder to her issue male; he died in 1756, leaving four sons and two daughters. His widow resided and died here in 1794, when this and other estates descended to her grandson, Sir Peter Burnell, afterwards lord Gwydir, who is the present possessor of this manor.

KENT HOUSE is situated on the verge of this county, towards Surrey, and was for some generations possessed by the family of the Lethieullier's, one of whom devised it, at his death, to his son, William, who by his will gave it, with his mansion and other estates in Beckenham, to his second son, Manning Lethieullier, esq., whose son, John, alienated it, in 1776, to Thomas Lucas, of Lee, in this county. He died possessed of it in 1784, leaving his widow surviving, who marrying John Julius Angerstein, esq. of Charlton, he in her right possessed the same.

BECKENHAM is in the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Dartford. The church, which stands on a rising ground, a little eastward of the village, is dedicated to St. George, and may be conjectured to have been built about the reign of Edward III. It contains many coats of arms, carved and painted achievements and pennons, belonging to the family of the Style's, of Langley. It consisted formerly of only one aisle, till increased, by the addition of a large chapel or aisle on either side, both of which were built by Oliver Style, of Wateringbury. Under the south

aisle he constructed a vault for the sole use of Langley house and the family there. This church is a neat building, with a handsome spire steeple at the west end, covered with shingles. On December 23, 1790, a great storm of thunder and lightning destroyed the spire and the greater part of this church by fire; it was, however, subsequently repaired and restored to its former state.

In this edifice, among others, are the following monuments: in the chancel, a brass plate for William Danzell, rector; a memorial for Elizabeth Christmas; and another for Elizabeth, daughter of William Skinner. On a brass plate, several coats of arms, and the figure of a woman, for Dame Margaret, wife of Sir William Damsell; on the north wall, a monument for Benjamin Burdett; and several brass plates of arms, with the effigies of a man, two women, and eleven children, the memorials of Sir Humphrey Stile, his two wives, and children; there being also many other monuments for that family. In the nave, on the east wall, is a monument for Peter Burnell; and on the walls of the aisle, the arms of the Style family, with their marriages and quarterings.

In the 15th of Edward I., this living was valued at twenty-five marks, and afterwards estimated in the king's books at £16 18 9, the yearly tenths being £1 13 10½. Mr. Rose, the rector, rebuilt the parsonage house on a large scale, and in a very handsome manner.

In 1821 there were 196 dwellings in the parish of Beckenham; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 558, females 622, making a total of 1180 souls.

Bromley is the other parish in this hundred, lying next eastward from Beckenham. It was anciently written, in Saxon, *Bromleag* and *Bromleah;* in Latin, *Bromlega*, which signifies a field or pasture where broom grows.

This parish is of large circumference, being nearly four miles in length; the lands are, in general, very thin and poor, and the soil much inclined to gravel. The river Ravensbourne directs its course northward along the western part; and about a quarter of a mile eastward, stands the town of Bromley, with

the church to the west. It is built on each side of the high road leading from London, through Farnborough, to Sevenoak; passing over Mason's or Gravel hill, near the entrance to Bromley common, the extremity of which and Southborough constitute the southern boundaries of this parish. Between the river and the south end of the town is Simpson's place; and about a quarter of a mile on the opposite side, the bishop's palace. Towards the north-east, the parish stretches very far among the woods, close to which stands the seat of Sundridge, now called Washers, in the woods, from its situation therein. There are several hamlets in this parish, among which, those of Plaistow and Widmore are the two principal; and in the latter stands the elegant mansion of Bickley, about a mile distant from Bromley. This house occupies a noble eminence, and was erected, in 1780, by John Wells, esq.; but material alterations and additions were made by his son and successor, William Wells, esq., who rendered the whole a most commodious residence. The park, though not extensive, derives considerable beauty from the inequalities of its surface, and extent of view. It adjoins the grounds of Camden place, once the residence of Prince Esterhazy, and boasts the exuberant scenery for which that park is so justly celebrated; the gardens are extensive, wherein was erected, a few years back, a fine grapery. The present proprietor is son of the late William Wells, esq., who served the office of sheriff for the county in 1818, and was returned representative in Parliament for Maidstone. His youngest daughter married James Brown, esq., M.P. for Mayo, in Ireland.

Bromley is a populous and well built town, the buildings continually increasing. Its situation is pleasant and healthy, and among its inhabitants are many opulent gentlemen's families, which, together with the college, the bishop of Rochester's residence near, and its well frequented market, support it in a most flourishing condition.

The market was granted to the bishop of Rochester in the 26th of Henry VI., to be held weekly within his manor of Bromley. It is much resorted to for every kind of provisions. There are also two annual fairs, on the 5th of August and the 14th of February. There is a spring in the archbishop's grounds called St. Blaze's well, which had anciently great resort, on account of its medicinal virtues, and an oratory

annexed, dedicated to the above-mentioned saint. It was particularly frequented at Whitsuntide, on account of a remission of forty days enjoined penance, to such as should visit this chapel and offer up their orisons on the three holy days of Pentecost. The oratory falling to ruin at the Reformation, the well was also disused, and the site, in process of time, became totally forgotten, and so continued till the spring was again discovered in 1754, by means of a yellow sediment remaining in the tracts of a small current leading thence to the corner of the moat, with the waters of which it used to mingle. In digging round the well, there were found the remains of the old steps, made of oak plank, which appeared to have lain underground for centuries.

The water of this spring is chalybeate, and rises at the foot of a declivity, at a small distance eastward from the palace of the bishop; the soil through which it passes is gravel, and it issues immediately from a bed of pure white sand. These waters being found a good chalybeate, were, by order of the bishop, immediately secured from the mixture of other springs, and enclosed, in hopes they might prove beneficial to such as should partake of the same; since which, numbers of people, especially of the middling and poorer sort, have been remarkably relieved from various infirmities and diseases, not only afflicting, but sometimes dangerous.

Birtrick, a Saxon nobleman, bequeathed by testament, in 984, lands at Bromley, to St. Andrew's priory, in Rochester.

After the Conquest, Odo bishop of Bayeux seized on the possessions of the church of Rochester at Bromley; but archbishop Lanfranc recovered them at the assembly held at Penenden heath in 1076, and restored them to bishop Gundulph. Accordingly, this estate was entered under the general title of the bishop of Rochester's lands in the survey of Domesday, in 1080.

Bishop Gundulph most probably soon after erected a mansion or palace, which appears to have been but a very inconvenient habitation, and, in 1184, became so ruinous, that bishop Gilbert de Glanville found it necessary to rebuild the same in a more commodious manner.

During the great rebellion in 1646, on the abolition of archbishops and bishops, when their lands and possessions were vested in trustees to satisfy the debts due from the state, the

manor of Bromley, as partof the possessions of the bishopric of Rochester, was sold, in 1648, to Augustine Skinner, for the sum of £5665 11 11; in which situation it remained till the restoration of Charles II., in 1660, when it reverted back, with the palace, to its lawful owner, in the person of Dr. John Warner, bishop of Rochester; and in his successors they continued, being now in the possession of the right reverend the lord bishop of the diocese.

The palace, most pleasantly situated, is the only one belonging to the see of Rochester, having had many additions made from time to time. Among its late benefactors, we may reckon bishop Sprat, who pulled down and rebuilt the chapel, and much improved the grounds; as also bishop Atterbury, who made many expensive additions. The greatest benefactor, however, was bishop Wilcox, whose reparations of the buildings, and improvements in the grounds and gardens, were executed at no small cost, and with peculiar elegance. After that period, the whole remained, with little alteration, till bishop Thomas, on his promotion to this see in 1774, finding the house delapidated, pulled the whole down, and erected a small neat brick edifice on the site of the old palace, which was completed in 1776, and afterwards used by him, as by his successors, for an episcopal summer residence.

Roger Forde, abbot of Glastonbury, a man of great learning and eloquence, was killed at this palace in the time of bishop Laurence de St. Martin, on a journey which he undertook, to defend the rights of his church, A.D. 1266.

SUNDRIDGE is a manor and seat situated towards the north-east of this parish, among the woods, formerly the residence of a noted family of the name of Blund, or Blound, anciently lords of Guisnes, in France. One of them had three sons, who came into England with the Conqueror; and of these, one returned into France, and the other two, Sir Robert and Sir William, remained in England, the former settling in Suffolk, and the latter in Lincolnshire. From these the several families of Blount, in this kingdom, are descended; of a younger branch was Peter le Blund, owner of this place in the reign of Henry III., in the 39th year of which prince he was made constable of the Tower of London. His descendant, Edward le Blund, was possessed of Sundridge in the 20th of Edward III.

Soon after which, this family ended in a female heir, who carried the seat in marriage to the Willoughby's, from which name it passed to the Booth's; in whose descendants it continued till Sith Booth, esq. dying without issue male, one of his daughters carried it in marriage to Thomas Bettenham, esq. of Shurland, in Pluckley; and after passing through various names, it went, in 1776, to the possession of Edward George Lind, esq., who resided there.

Simpsons is an estate in this parish, formerly of much greater account than at present; it was anciently owned by the family of the Bankwell's, who resided at Lee, in the neighbourhood. In the 31st of Edward I., John de Banquel was possessed of this estate, and William de Banquel died possessed of it in the 20th of Edward III., and left Thomas his heir. He died in the 35th year of the same reign, holding much land in this neighbourhood, and left three sons, John, William, and Robert Bankwell, who became his heirs in gavelkind; and on a division of their inheritance, William, the second son, became entitled to his father's estate in Bromley.

On the extinction of that family, the property passed to the name of the Clarke's, one of whom, William, in the reign of Henry V., erected a strong but small building of stone, with an embattled wall, and encircled it with a deep moat. In the reign of Henry VI., it was possessed by John Simpson, who purchased it and resided here, and having much improved the mansion, it acquired his name, by which it has ever since been called.

In the 11th of Edward IV., Robert Simpson died possessed of this seat, and his descendant, Nicholas, the king's barber, alienated Simpson's to Alexander Basset, who, in the reign of Henry VIII., conveyed it by sale to Sir Humphrey Stile, of Langley, this estate being then held in socage.

His descendant, Humphrey, dying without issue male, his only daughter and heir carried this estate in marriage to Sir John Elwill, bart., who dying in 1727, without issue, Edward, his brother, succeeded him, and in 1732, conveyed Simpsons to Hugh Raymond, of Great Saling, in Essex. He settled it on his only son, Jones Raymond, esq., in tail general, with remainder to his daughter, Amy, married to Peter Burnell, esq.; and her issue male. On the death of Jones Raymond, in 1678,

without issue, Peter Burnell, esq. of Beckenham, in right of his wife, possessed it, after the death of whose widow, it descended to her grandson, Sir Peter Burnell, knight, afterwards lord Gwydir, who is the present owner.

BROMLEY COLLEGE a charity as unexampled at the time of its institution, as it has been ever since, was founded by Dr. John Warner, bishop of Rochester, who died in 1666, and by will directed the foundation of an HOSPITAL or COLLEGE, for twenty widows of loyal and orthodox clergymen, and a chaplain. To accomplish this noble and generous design, he directed his executors to raise, out of his personal estate, a building proper for this purpose, and charged his manor of Swayton with an annual payment of £450, for their maintenance, of which sum each widow was to receive £20 yearly, the remaining £50 being intended as a stipend for the chaplain, who was always to be appointed from Magdalen college, in Oxford, where the bishop himself had been educated. There have been several benefactors to this charity, for the purpose of keeping the college in complete repair. Archbishop Tenison left 100 guineas, half for the repairs of this hospital, and the other half for the widows. Joseph Wilcocks, esq., son of the bishop of Rochester, completed the enclosure of the college grove, at the expense of £120; and Mrs. Wolfe, mother of the late general, dying in 1765, bequeathed £500, to put it in a state of complete repair. Since that period, this institution has been increased by still further benefactions. The two worthy and beneficent brothers the late Jeffry Hetherington, esq. of North Cray, and Mr. William Hetherington, of Farnham Royal, settled the interest of £2000, to be applied every winter, in providing the widows with coals and candles; there being also many more munificent benefactors to this college.

BROMLEY is in the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Dartford. The church, dedicated to Sts. Peter and Paul, appears to have been erected at different times, the eastern part being much the most ancient; and at the west end is a tower.

Among other monuments are the following: in the chancel, a monument for John Yonge, bishop of Rochester; two memorials for John Flavell and his wife. Several tombs for

the Young's, of London, merchants; and another for Anthony Chalthorp. Several mementoes for the Thornhill's; and another for Robert Pynsent, of Sundridge. In the nave is a memorial against the north wall for Peregrina, wife of Lieutenant Mansell; and a monument against the east wall, for John Mannsell, of Chichely, in Buckinghamshire.

Dr. John Buckeridge, first bishop of Rochester, who died in 1631, was buried here, but had no memorial whatsoever placed over him. Dr. Zachariah Pearce, late bishop of Rochester, who died in 1774, was also intered here. In the wall of the church, was once the portraiture, in stone, of one Richard de Wendover, bishop of Rochester, who died in 1250, notwithstanding which, it is said his body was buried at Westminster by the king's especial command. In the 15th of Edward I., the church of Bromley was valued at thirty marks.

In 1534, this church was a rectory, then valued at £39 12; soon after which it became appropriated to the bishop of Rochester, and in that state remained, the church being served by a curate appointed by the bishop. It is not in charge in the king's books.

In 1821 there were 486 dwellings in the parish of Bromley; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 1496, females 1651, making a total of 3147 souls.

THE HUNDRED OF BLACKHEATH.

THIS HUNDRED is called in Domesday record the *hundred of Grenviz*, or *Greenwich*, a name it only kept for a short period, as, in the 7th of Edward I., it bore its present appellation, that monarch being then lord of the district. It is divided into *two half hundreds*, the UPPER and the LOWER half hundreds, each having a *constable*, who claims jurisdiction over the whole, both being chosen at the court-leet of the hundred. It contains the following parishes: LEWISHAM, LEIGH, ELTHAM, MOTTINGHAM, WOOLWICH, CHARLTON, KIDBROOKE, GREENWICH, and DEPTFORD.

LEWISHAM

Is called in ancient deeds, *Levesham*, and derives its name from its situation, *Leves*, or *Leswes*, in Saxon, signifying pastures, and *ham*, a town or village.

This parish is low and flat, through which the river Ravensbourne directs its course to the northward; and at a small distance westward of the village or street of Lewisham, that extends nearly up the hill to Blackheath, is a large hamlet of houses, reaching as far as Deptford hill, on the London road, many of which are handsome, and inhabited by the nobility, particularly one belonging to the earl of Dartmouth, lord of this manor.

In the street, opposite the Rookery, once stood a large mansion, formerly inhabited by Sir William Wild, knight and baronet, recorder of London in the reign of Charles II. It was held under a term from the corporation of London, which expiring many years ago, the structure was pulled down. Farther on, at the corner of the lane going up to Brockley, by the church and vicarage house, is a handsome mansion, for some generations owned by the family of the Lethieullier's, the first of whom was Sir John, a Hamburgh merchant, in whose des-

cendants it continued till his great grandson, John Lethieullier, esq., alienated it, in 1776, to Mr. Sclater, of Rotherhithe, who became entitled to the same.

At the south end of the street, is the hamlet of Rushy green; and farther on, distant about a mile on the road to Beckenham, Southend, noted for those engines on the river, whereby Mr. Ephraim How made the blades of knives, so famous throughout England. On the opposite or western side of the river, on higher ground, is the hamlet of Brockley; and nearer the river, a large house, usually called the Place house, which once belonged to George Plantagenet, duke of Clarence, brother of Edward IV., which devolved to him by marriage with Isabel, daughter and coheir of Richard Neville, the great earl of Warwick, in memory of whom, the arms of the duke, impaled with hers, were put up in the windows of this house, where they remained till of late years. Not far hence, is the hamlet of Pery street; and at some distance farther, southward, another far more considerable, of Sydenham, situated south-west, and adjoining to Surrey. It was formerly written Cypenham, and among the benefactors to the priory of Rochester, John Besevile is recorded as having given the land of *Sipenham*, in this parish, to that priory; which, about 100 years ago, had only a few farm-houses and cottages built round the common. The increase of its inhabitants, and subsequent prosperity, has arisen from the discovery of some springs of *medicinal aperient water*, which, from their contiguity to Dulwich, bear the name of *Dulwich Wells*, though there are some of the same kind in that parish, of an inferior quality, and not so plentiful in quantity. The springs in this hamlet are at the foot of a hill, about twelve in number. The hill and ground adjoining is a stiff clay, with some wood upon it. These springs rank next to those of Epsom, and were discovered about the year 1640; the hole dug is about nine feet deep, and the water about half a yard in depth, when emptied every day. The bottom consists of loam, as is also the hill; and when the water issues, there is found the *lapis lutoso vitriolicus*, which glitters with vitriolic sparkles, being divided into parcels by the *trichitis*. This water is very quick in its opening qualities; and is bitter, like the Epsom waters, and curdles when mingled with soap or milk.

Dr. Allen published his account of these wells in 1699, another having been previously published in 1681, by Dr. John Peters, physician, under the name of Lewisham waters in Kent.

Between Lewisham street and Dulwich is a hill, having an oak upon it, which was called *the Oak of Honour*, in consequence of Queen Elizaheth having dined under it; the old tree has long since been gone, but a new one was planted on the same spot. Some antiquities have been found on the edge of the heath, near the town of Lewisham, which induced an ingenious gentleman, Mr. William Harrison, to conjecture that Lewisham was the *Noviomagus* mentioned in the Itinerary of *Antoninus*, but in this he has not been followed by any other historian.

In the *heraldic visitation* of this county, began by John Philipott, *Rouge dragon*, in 1619, is the pedigree of the Colfe's, beginning with Amand Colfe, of Calais, who married Catherine, daughter and heir of — Bradfield, of Calais, by whom he had five sons, William, Richard, Joseph, and two others; and a daughter, Beatrix. This family continued here down to Joseph, who settled at Canterbury, where he was alderman, and left issue. Their arms were, quarterly, Colfe and Bradfield, viz. first and fourth, *Or, a fess between three colts, currant sable;* second and third, *Vert, a cross pale, per cross, or, and gules, between four mullets, or.*

The manor of Lewisham was given, with its appendages of Greenwich and Combe, by Elthruda, King Alfred's niece, to the abbey of St. Peter, at Ghent, to which Lewisham then became a cell or alien priory; which grant is said to have been confirmed by King Edgar, in 964, and by Edward the Confessor, in 1044.

This place is entered in Domesday record, under the title of the possessions of the abbot of Ghent.

William the Conqueror, and several of his successors, confirmed this manor and its appendages to the above abbey, where they remained till the suppression of the alien priories throughout England, in the reign of Henry V., when they became vested in the crown, and were settled by that king on his new founded house, or Carthusian priory of Bethlehem, near Shorne. Notwithstanding which, however, Henry VIII.

found means to obtain the surrendry of this manor, with the rectory and advowson of the vicarage, and annexed them to the crown, in his 23d year.

John earl of Warwick, eldest son of the duke of Northumberland, afterwards possessed this manor, on whose attainder it escheated to the crown, whence it was, in the 5th of Elizabeth, granted to Sir Ambrose Dudley, who had been restored in blood by Queen Mary; in the 4th of Elizabeth, was created baron L'Isle, and the next day, earl of Warwick. He soon after exchanged it for other lands, with that queen, and she, in the 18th year of her reign, granted this manor and rectory, for forty years, to Sir Nicholas Stoddard, of Mottingham; which term expiring in 1605, King James granted another lease of the property, for forty years, to Sir Francis Knolles, who having been very zealous for the Reformation, was much esteemed by the queen, and in the 1st year of her reign, made one of the privy council, and shortly after, vice chamberlain of her household, captain of her guard, treasurer of her household, and lastly, knight of the Garter. He married Catherine, daughter of William Carie, esq., and had by her several children, of whom, William, the eldest surviving son, was, in the 1st of James I., created lord Knolles, of Grays, in Oxfordshire, and within a short time after, knight of the Garter. In the 14th year of the same reign he was raised to the dignity of viscount Wallingford; and in the 2d of Charles I., created earl of Bambury. They bore for their arms, *Azure, crusily, a cross meline, voided throughout, or.*

King James, after confirming the above-mentioned lease, granted the fee simple of this manor and rectory to John Ramsay, earl of Holderness, who had been page to the king, and attended him to the house of earl Gowry, at Perth, in Scotland, in 1600, where he had the good fortune to discover the conspiracy which the earl and his brother Alexander then designed against the life of that prince. For the service in question he was made viscount Haddington; and, for an augmentation of honour, had *an arm holding a naked sword, with a crown in the midst thereof with an heart at the point, given him to impale with his own arms.*

In the 18th year of that reign he was created baron of Kingston-upon-Thames, and earl of Holderness, with this

special condition of honour, that on the 5th day of August annually, (the day of the discovery,) he and his heirs male for ever, should bear the sword of state before the king in remembrance of his happy deliverance. He died before the expiration of the above lease, and leaving no issue, gave his interest in this estate to his brother, Sir George Ramsay, who was naturalized by parliament in the 7th of James I. whose son, John Ramsay, when the lease was out in 1645, sold the fee simple to Reginald Grahame, esq. who, at the latter end of the reign of Charles II. sold this manor, with the rectory, church, parsonage, and advowson of the vicarage, to admiral George Legge, afterwards baron Dartmouth, of Dartmouth, in Devonshire.

An ancestor of that family is said to have been Thomas Legge, who lived in the reign of Edward III., and was sheriff of London in the 18th of that prince, and twice lord mayor: he bore for his arms, *a buck's head, caboshed, on a chief, three crosslets patonce.* By Elizabeth his wife, one of the daughters of Thomas Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, he had two sons Simon and John.

The direct descendant of the former was William Legge, eminently distinguished for his loyalty to Charles I. on every occasion, having enjoyed so general a reputation for integrity and fidelity, that he never fell under the reproach of any man. After the unfortunate death of that monarch, he suffered great hardships, which did not deter him from espousing the cause of Charles II., at whose restoration he received many marks of royal favor, and had several honourable and lucrative employments conferred upon him.

He died at his house, in the Minories, in 1670, and was interred in the vault of the Trinity chapel there, where a monument was erected to his memory. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Washington, by whom he had three sons, George, William, and Edward, and two daughters.

George Legge, the eldest, before mentioned, who purchased the manor of Lewisham, was, early in life, sent to sea, under his kinsman, and became a commander of several of the king's ships of war. In 1673, he was made governor of Portsmouth, master of the horse, gentleman of the bedchamber to the duke of York, master of the Ordnance, and sworn of the Privy

Council; and, on the 2d of December, in the 34th of Charles II., further advanced to the title of baron Dartmouth, to him and his heirs male, with remainder to his next brother, William Legge, in tail. Possessing singular skill and experience in military and naval affairs, he was afterwards honoured with the post of admiral, and commanded the royal fleet, in 1688, at the period of the landing of the prince of Orange in this kingdom. However, notwithstanding he had brought the fleet home safe, and had acted by the orders of the king, he was, at the Revolution, deprived of all his employments, in 1691, and committed prisoner to the Tower, where, after three months' incarceration, he died suddenly of apoplexy. By the order of King William, he had the same honours paid to him at his funeral as would have been due to him had he died possessed of his former rank and dignities. He was buried near his father, in the vault in the Minories, where a monument was erected to his memory by Barbara, his wife, who died in 1718, and was buried in the same vault; by whom he had one son, William, and several daughters. William Legge, his son, was raised by Queen Anne to several posts of trust and honour, constituted member of her Privy Council, and, in 1711, advanced to the dignities of viscount Lewisham and earl of Dartmouth. He married lady Anne Finch, third daughter of Heneage earl of Aylesford, and by that union had six sons and two daughters. George, the eldest, viscount Lewisham, died during his father's life; Heneage Legge, the second son, was one of the barons of the Exchequer; he married Catherine, daughter of Mr. Jonathan Fogge, merchant of London, by whom he had issue, and died in 1759. Henry Legge, the fourth son, who took the name of Bilson, was a man of great abilities, both as a statesman and financier, and went through most of the great offices under government with reputation and integrity, having ultimately quitted them to the great regret of the nation in general. He died in 1764, having married, in 1750, Mary, only daughter of Edward lord Stawel, and she, in 1760, was created baroness Stawel, with remainder to her heirs male by her said husband, by whom she had one son, the Hon. Henry Stawel Legge, born 1757, afterwards lord Stawel; Edward Legge, the fifth son, was a commander in the royal navy, and died in the West Indies, in 1747.

The earl died at his seat at Blackheath, in this parish, in 1750, and was succeeded in his honours and estates by William his grandson and heir, only son of his eldest son, George viscount Lewisham, who had married and died, as before mentioned, during the life of his father. By her he had William, afterwards earl of Dartmouth, and two daughters; he was the possessor of this manor, rectory, and advowson, and resided at Blackheath. The earl of Dartmouth married, in 1755, Frances Catherine, only daughter of Sir Charles Gunter Nicholl, K.B., by whom he had several children. George, the eldest, viscount Lewisham, was born in 1755, and married, in 1782, lady Sarah, sister of the earl of Aylesford; he bears for his arms, *Azure, a buck's head caboshed, argent;* for crest, *in a ducal coronet, or, a plume of five ostrich feathers, partly per pale, argent, and azure;* and for supporters on the dexter side, *a lion argent, semee of fleur de lis, sable, and crowned like the crest;* on the sinister, *a buck, argent, semee of mullets, gules.*

George lord Dartmouth obtained from Charles II. a grant to hold a fair twice a year, and a market twice a week, upon Blackheath, in this parish, which have been discontinued since the year 1772.

Catford is a manor in this parish, anciently the inheritance of a family of the name of Abel, which dwelt at Hering hill, in Erith, one of whom, John Abel, had a charter of *free warren* for his lands at Lewisham, and in Hachecham and Camberwell, in the 23d of Edward I. Soon after, it passed into the possession of that great prelate, Anthony Beke, bishop of Durham, on whose demise it escheated to the crown; but, in the 4th of Edward III., was granted, with other manors and lands, to Sir William de Montacute, knight banneret, and his wife, Catherine, in tail, with remainder to the king, as a reward for having apprehended Roger Mortimer, at Nottingham. In the 10th of Edward III., he was constituted admiral of the king's fleet, westward, and having served that monarch with great success in the Scottish wars, was, the following year, created earl of Salisbury; after which, he obtained a grant, dated at Antwerp, in the 12th year of the above reign, of the office of marshal of England, vacant by the death of Thomas earl of Norfolk.

The following year he gave the manor of Catford to the chantry or college of St. Laurence Poultney, in London, then

newly founded by Sir John Poultney, knight, a man of great note at that time, as well for his wisdom as immense riches. It so remained in the possession of the college till its suppression, in the reign of Henry VI., when it was granted, among other lands, by the description of a capital messuage, called Catford, of the clear yearly value of £3 14 1, to Henry Polsted and William More, for £2034.

The family of Polsted was of great antiquity in the county of Surrey, as Hugh de Polsted gave lands, called Inwood, in the 16th of King John, to the abbey of Waversley, in that county; they bore for their arms, *Argent, fretty sable.*

Catford continued in the name of Polsted till Francis Polsted, cousin and heir of Richard, sold it, in the 20th of Elizabeth, to Brian Annesley, esq. of Lee, in reversion, after the death of Elizabeth, the widow of Richard Polsted, above mentioned. Brian Annesley died without issue male, leaving three daughters, Christian, married to lord Sandys; Grace, to Sir John Wildgorse; and Cordelia, to Sir William Hervey; the two last of whom shared this inheritance between them. From their possessions it passed by sale to Edward lord Montague, of Boughton, in Northamptonshire, son of Sir Edward Montague, who was created lord Montague, baron of Boughton by patent, in the 19th of James I. His descendant and great grandson, John duke of Montague, in 1717, procured an Act of Parliament to vest the manor of Catford, with all its appurtenances in other parishes, in trustees, to sell the same, for the payment of his debts.

The trustees accordingly passed away these manors and messuages to James Craggs, senior, on whose death, in 1721, without issue male, they descended to his three daughters and coheirs, married to Newsham, Eliot, and Trefusis; since which they have continued in the same line of ownership as that of Kidbrook, in Charlton, being vested in Edward lord Eliot, of Port Eliot, in Cornwall.

The manor of Billingham, in this parish, was possessed by the Cistercian monastery of Stratford Langthorne, founded at Westham, in Essex, by William de Montfitchet, about the year 1134. After which, in the 15th of Edward I., the temporalities of the abbot of Lewisham were valued at £7 11 8 per annum, at the dissolution of which establishment it reverted to

the crown, and was, in the 1st of Queen Mary, granted to Richard Wheatley, to hold *in capite*. His daughter, and heir, Philippa, married John Rochester, who afterwards possessed this manor, and levied a fine of the same in Easter term, in the 17th of Elizabeth. Into whose possession it then passed, we have not found, but some years after, it may be traced to Thomas Inwin, esq., whose daughter, Sarah viscountess Falkland, (her first husband having been Henry earl of Suffolk,) died possessed of it in 1776, and by will devised it, for life, to her husband, Lucius lord Falkland; and the remainder, in fee, to Francis Motley Austin, esq. of Wilmington, since of Kippington, in Sevenoak, who subsequently purchased lord Falkland's interest therein, and possessed this manor. As to the priory, a detail has been already given in the account of the manor of Lewisham, so that little more need be particularized further than that, on the grant of the manor and its appendages to St. Peter's abbey, at Ghent, by Elthruda, King Alfred's niece, the abbot and convent built a mansion there, afterwards called the *priory of Lewisham*, under the government of an individual who had the title of prior, and being thus connected with St. Peter's abbey, it was esteemed a benedictine cell, or alien priory, to the same.

LEWISHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Dartford. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, was, from the earliest records extant, an appendage to the manor of Lewisham, having passed through the hands of the same proprietors to the earl of Dartmouth, the present owner. In the 15th of Edward I., the church of Lewisham was valued at twenty marks, and the vicarage at ten.

By the *commission of Inquiry* it was returned, that Lewisham was a vicarage, worth £120 per annum. The vicarage is valued in the king's books at £23 19 2, the yearly tenths being £2 7 11.

In 1774, the church of Lewisham requiring great repairs, in order to its support, and becoming too small to contain the numerous inhabitants of the parish, the residents applied to Parliament for power to rebuild it, and accordingly an Act passed that year to enable commissioners to take down and rebuild the fabric, and raise a sum for that purpose by annuities on lives, not exceeding £5000. In pursuance of that authority, the old church was pulled down, and a new fabric erected on the

same spot, in which service was first performed September 7th, 1777. Within a few days after, part of the east side fell to the ground, which was shortly after repaired and made good.

In the old church, among others, on the north side, was a monument for John Perry, esq. of Blackheath, obiit 1732, aged ninety-two, and his wife, aged seventy-two; and on the south side, a memorial for Thomas Dyer, esq. In the chancel, a tomb for Susan, wife of Reginald Grahme, lord of this manor. Two memorials for two infant daughters of Sir Francis Wylde, knight and baronet, and dame Frances, his wife. Within the altar rails, a monument for George Stanhope, S.T.P., dean of Canterbury, and vicar of this church; and another, with the figure of a man in brass, for George, son and heir of William Haltecliff, esq. On the north side, a memento for Margaret, first wife of Jasper Valentine; and another, for Thomas Jones, common sergeant of the city of London. In the south chancel, a memorial for several of the Dyer's; and two monuments for the family of the Lymes's, of Blackheath. At the back of the pulpit were the arms of Valentine carved on the wainscot. On the north side of the chancel, was an ancient stone coffin, cased over with board, which formed the seat of two pews, near the rails of the altar; it probably contained the remains of one of the priors of the cell, in this parish. On the south wall of the church, on the outside, near the east end, was a small monument for Abraham Colfe, late minister of Lewisham, A.D. 1657.

There were two chantries founded at Lewisham, one by Richard Walker, for one priest, to celebrate mass at the altar of the Trinity, for the soul of the founder; the other by Roger Fitz, who by will, in the 17th of Henry VII., devised his two houses, the Lion and the Ram, in the Stews, on the Bankside, near London, to be sold, in order to build the chantry house, and endow it with maintenance for one priest, to celebrate mass at the altar of the Trinity, in Lewisham, for the soul of the founder. In the 5th of Edward III., an Act passed for the more speedy and easy recovery of small debts within the hundreds of Blackheath, Bromley, Beckenham, Rokesley, Little, and Lesnes; and in the 10th year of the same monarch another Act passed to explain and amend the former.

In 1821 there were 1409 dwellings in the parish of Lewisham;

and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 3630, females 4555, making a total of 8185 souls.

The parish of LEE lies westward from Eltham, anciently written *Legheart*, and in old Latin, *Laga*, that is, a place that lies sheltered.

This parish is small, and lies low and flat, excepting northward, where the hill rises towards Blackheath; the lane called Burnt Ash lane, bounds it westward, separating the two manors of Lee and Eltham. The village stands nearly in the centre, on the high road towards Eltham, and thence to Maidstone. It is very healthy and pleasant, and the houses mostly inhabited by genteel families of fortune. On the north side is the ancient seat of Lee place; and at the west end, a house which was for many years the residence of the family of the Papillon's; opposite to which are the almshouses built by the family of Boone. Northward of the village the hill gradually rises, nearly on the summit of which is lady Dacre's seat, most pleasantly situated, the church and parsonage standing close to the same.

There is a *little bourn* or *rivulet* that takes its rise in this parish, which sometimes, on sudden rains, swells so much, as to rise near ten feet in height, when it crossed the high road, rendering it so dangerous, or rather impassable at such times, that it was found requisite to erect a bridge; a high causeway having also been raised for a considerable length at either extremity, at the public expense. This brook running thence, passes by the foot of the wall of the old seat of the Annesley's, long since in ruins; about the south side of which, it seems to have formed a kind of moat, and afterwards discharges its waters into the river Ravensbourne, in the adjoining parish of Lewisham.

The meadow lands in the valley, lying on either side of this stream, are very rich, and let at high rents. The family of the Annesley's, above mentioned, bore for its arms, *Paly of six pieces, argent and azure, on a bend, gules, a crescent*, for difference.

In the reign of the Conqueror, Lee was part of the possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux, of whom it was held by Walter

de Doway; and is so entered under the general title of that bishop's lands in the record of Domesday.

Under Edward I., this place was the residence of an ancient family called Bankwell, sometimes written Bakwell, and Banquelle, which probably acquired that surname from a place in this parish, formerly written Bankwells, but now called Bankers.

In the 31st year of the same prince, John de Banquel was appointed one of the barons of the king's Exchequer, and, in the return of John de Shelving, sheriff, in the 17th year of that reign, of all the knights and *men at arms* within this district, William de Banquel is mentioned in the second degree. He died in the 20th of Edward III., leaving Thomas Banquel, his heir, who died in the 35th year of that reign, possessed of Lee and other lands, in Modingham, Sherfholt, Littlecroft, Bankers, and Wickham by Bromley. He left three sons, John, William, and Robert, who became heirs, in *gavelkind*, to all his inheritance; and upon their division of the same, Lee, Bankers, and Sherfholt, fell to the share of John Bankwell, the eldest son. However, this family ending in a female heir, she carried these estates in marriage to John Arrapon, whence they were, in the next reign of Richard II., sold to Sir Thomas Stury, who continued possessor till the reign of Henry VI., when they became the property of Richard Widville, or Woodville, who, in the 26th of Henry VI., was created baron Rivers, and made knight of the Garter in 1465. He was made earl Rivers and constable of England by Edward IV., who had married his daughter, Elizabeth, widow of Sir John Grey; when his great favor with the king brought upon him the hatred of the Lancastrians, who seized him, with his son, John, and carried them to Northampton, where they were both beheaded, in the 9th of Edward IV. By Jaquet de Luxemburgh, his wife, widow of John duke of Bedford, he had several sons and daughters; and of the former, Anthony succeeded to the honours and estates. He had married, during the life of his father, Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Thomas lord Scales, and was beheaded at Pontefract, in 1483, under the pretence of treason, by order of Richard duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard III. He died without issue, upon which, Richard Woodville, his brother, succeeded him in titles and estates, but dying unmarried in the 7th of

Henry VII., he by will appointed Thomas Grey, marquis of Dorset, his nephew and heir.

Sir Thomas Grey, marquis of Dorset, was eldest son of Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Richard Woodville, earl Rivers, (afterwards married to Edward IV.) by Sir John Grey, and was, in the 11th of Edward IV., created earl of Huntingdon; and, in the 15th year of the same prince, marquis of Dorset, only, *per cincturam gladii et capæ honoris et dignitatis impositionem,* the coronet being omitted.

After the death of Edward IV., he was, in consequence of his near relationship to the young king, Edward, attainted of high treason by the duke of Gloucester, but found means to escape into Brittany, with many other persons of note, to the aid of Henry earl of Richmond, where he remained till the overthrow of Richard III., at Bosworth. He then returned, and Henry VII. fully restored him, and constituted him of his Privy Council. He married Cecile, daughter of lord Bonville, by whom he had several sons and daughters, and died in the 17th of Henry VII., having given by will to Thomas, his eldest son, among other manors, those of Lee, Shroffold, and the Lee, Bankers, and Lewisham. He held them but a few years, granting to Henry VIII., in his 3d year, the manors of Lee, Bankers, and Shroffold, with the advowsons of those churches, in exchange for other manors and lands in Leicestershire.

In the reign of Elizabeth, those manors were in the tenure of Thomas Sackville, lord Buckhurst, afterwards earl of Dorset, and lord high treasurer; whose grandson, Richard earl of Dorset, exchanged his interest therein with James I.; and his successor, Charles I., granted the royalty and fee simple of the same, (the advowson of the rectory excepted,) at the yearly rent of £87 10 2, to Ralph Freeman, of Acpeden, in Hertfordshire, who was afterwards knighted, and, in 1633, lord mayor of London. He married Joan, fourth daughter of John Crowch, of London, and had by her an only daughter and heir, Joan, with whom he gave these manors in marriage to Sir George Sondes, of Lee's court, in Sheldwich, knight of the Bath, afterwards earl of Faversham. By her he had three sons, all of whom died without issue, when he afterwards married Mary, daughter of Sir William Villiers, bart. of Brokesby,

in Leicestershire, by whom he left two daughters and coheirs, Mary, married to Lewis Duras, marquis of Blanquefort, who succeeded to the title of earl of Faversham; and Catherine, to Lewis Watson, earl of Rockingham, who in her right inherited these manors, on the death of the earl of Faversham, without issue.

On the demise of Lewis earl of Rockingham, in 1744, his grandson (son of Edward viscount Sondes, who died during the life of his father,) succeeded him in titles and estates, but dying without issue, devised these, among his other estates, by will, to the Hon. Lewis Monson, second son of John Monson, lord Monson, with an injunction, for him to take and use the surname and arms of Watson.

Lewis Monson Watson, above mentioned, was, in 1760, being the last of George II., advanced to the title of baron Sondes, of Lees court, in the parish of Sheldwich, in this county; and he, in 1788, settled this estate on his eldest son, the Hon. Lewis Thomas Watson, on his marriage, who, in 1795, on the death of his father, succeeded to the title of lord Sondes, and possessed this manor, and its two appendages of Bankers and Shrawfield.

LEE PLACE is an ancient well-built seat, which was formerly the residence of the family of the Boone's, in which it continued till Thomas Boone, esq. dying in 1749, it went by will to his natural daughter, married to Charles Cornforth, esq., who died possessed of it in 1777; after which it passed, by the limitation of Mr. Boone's will, to his nephews, sons of his brother, one of whom, Charles Boone, esq., afterwards possessed the property.

About a quarter of a mile north-west from the village of Lee, on the ascent of the hill, stands an elegant modern-built seat, which belonged to Sir Thomas Fludyer, who died possessed of it in 1769, having borne for his arms, *Sable, a cross flory between four escalops, argent, each charged with a cross flory of the field;* which arms were granted in 1739. He left by Mary his wife, a daughter and heir, Mary, who, in 1773, married Trevor Charles Roper, esq., and carried this seat to him. He was the eldest son of the Hon. George Roper, son of Henry lord Teynham, by his second wife, Anne, daughter and coheir of Thomas Lennard, earl of Sussex, and baroness

Dacre, he having been her second husband. She had first espoused Thomas Lennard Barret, esq., by whom she had a son, the late Thomas Lennard Barret, lord Dacre, on whose death, in 1786, Trevor Charles Roper, esq., above mentioned succeeded to that title, and became lord Dacre; he died at this seat in July, 1794, and was buried in Lee church, leaving the possession of the estate to his widow, Mary lady Dacre.

Lee is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Dartford. The church, dedicated to St. Margaret, is an ancient structure; the churchyard being crowded with tombs and monuments, many of them of excellent sculpture, one of which is a plain tomb, for Dr. Edward Halley, the famous astronomer. Among others, in the aisle, is a monument, in brass, with the effigies of a woman, for Elizabeth Conkyll; and at the east end, a monument for Abraham Sherman, A.M., who rebuilt the parsonage house in 1636. On the north side of the altar, is a sumptuous monument, with the figures of a man in armour and his wife lying at full length, bearing an inscription, for Brian Anslye, esq. of Lee, and Awdry his wife, only daughter of Robert Tirril, esq. of Essex, erected by Cordell, their daughter. On the south side of the altar, is a monument, with the effigies, in brass, of a man in armour kneeling at a desk, a book laying open before him, and an inscription, in black letter, for Nicholas Ansley, sergeant of the cellar to Queen Elizabeth.

The church of Lee was anciently esteemed as an appendage to the manor, and seems to have so continued till Charles I. granted the fee of the same to Ralph Freeman, reserving the right of the parsonage of the church to the crown, where it continued.

The church of Lee was valued, in the 15th of Edward I., at ten marks, and estimated in the king's books at £3 11 8, the yearly tenths being 7s. 2d.

By virtue of the *commission of Inquiry* into the value of church livings, in 1650, out of Chancery, it was returned that Lee was a parsonage, with a house and fifteen acres of glebe land, the whole worth £70 per annum.

In 1821 there were 119 dwellings in the parish of Lee; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inha-

bitants were as follow: males 294, females 443, making a total of 737 souls.

ELTHAM lies southward of Woolwich, on the opposite side of the high London road, deriving its name from the two Saxon words, *eald* and *ham*, signifying the old town or habitation, and is about two miles across either way, the town of Eltham standing in the centre. The high road from Farningham to Maidstone leads through this parish; at the east end of which is Park Place farm, where the road branches off on one side to Bexley. Here the land is dreary and barren, and much covered with coppice wood of oak; the other leads through the hamlet of Southend, in this parish, towards Foot's Cray, and so on to Maidstone. The church stands in the town, on the north side; and farther on, is Well hall, and the large tract of woodland as far as Shooter's hill, bounding the high road there to Dover. The great lodge and park wherein it stands join the south side of the town, at a small distance from which are the ruins of the ancient palace of Eltham, the great hall of which, called King John's barn, still remains entire. Westward, are the lodges of Middle and Horn, otherwise Lee parks, where the lands are very low and wet; and at the south boundary of the parish, is the hamlet of Modingham, where the ground rises towards Chiselhurst, commanding a fine view of the neighbouring country.

Eltham is a pleasant well-built town, and its proximity to the metropolis, and healthy and pleasant situation, make it the resort of merchants and people of fortune.

In the 12th of Edward I., John de Vesci had the grant of a market, to be held on a Tuesday, weekly, within his manor of Eltham, and an annual fair, on the feast of the Holy Trinity. Henry VI. granted a confirmation of this market to his tenants in Eltham, and one fair, to be held yearly. The market has been long since discontinued.

At the north-east extremity of this parish lies SHOOTERS HILL, over which the high road leads from London to Dover. The northern side is in Plumstead parish. It was, in all probability, so denominated from the archers frequently exercising themselves there in shooting. It always was a place of much danger and dread to travellers, from the narrowness of the

Drawn by H.Gastineau.

Engraved by H.Adlard.

ELTHAM BRIDGE.

KENT.

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road and the lurking places for nests of thieves among the woods and coppice, with which this hill was much overspread. In consequence, an order was issued in the 6th of Edward II. for enlarging the highway over this hill; and Henry IV. granted leave to Thomas Chapman, to cut down, burn, and sell, all the woods and underwoods growing and adjoining Shooters hill, on the south side, and to apply the money so raised upon mending the highway. Notwithstanding this, the road continued so narrow on the eastern descent of the hill, that it was impossible for a passenger, if waylaid, to escape from falling into the hands of ruffians, which gave occasion for continual robberies being committed here even at noon day. To remove this nuisance as far as possible in so public a road, the trustees authorized by Parliament for amending and improving it, in 1739, began to lay out a new road of considerable width, which may still be seen a little to the north, and this they at length completed, at no small expense, care, and labour, to the satisfaction of every traveller passing that way.

On the summit of Shooters hill, on the north side, in Plumstead parish, is a small hamlet of houses, among which, as you descend westward, stands a handsome seat, built by John Lidgbird, esq., sheriff of this county in 1741, the year before which he had the grant of the following coat of arms, being then styled of Plumstead, in the county of Kent, viz. *quarterly, gules and azure, a chevron, ermine in chief, two eagles displayed, argent.* On his death, about 1767, the property of this seat descended to his son, Henry Lidgbird, esq., but was inhabited, by demise from him, by John Stanley, esq.

At a small distance below, on a field, commanding a most beautiful and extensive prospect, a plan was formed, some years ago, for building a superb town, and a few houses were erected and finished, but the immensity of the undertaking, and the inability of those who had engaged therein, put an end to the design, and it was consequently given up. On the summit of the hill is a mineral spring, which is said constantly to overflow, and never to be frozen in the severest winters. An account of this phenomenon is given by William Godbid, printed in 1617. Near the high road, though entirely obscured by the woods, on the eastern summit of the hill, is a seat called Nightingale hall, commanding a beautiful prospect

towards the south, which was the residence of Mr. Montague; and in the wood on the western part of the summit, a triangular tower, built in the Gothic style, erected by lady James, to the memory of her husband, Sir William James, bart. of this parish, which, from its singular appearance, cannot escape notice, being seen for many miles round the country.

It was to Shooters hill that Henry VIII. and his queen, Catherine, repaired in great splendor from Greenwich, on May-day, when they were received by 200 archers, all clad in green, one of whom personated Robin Hood, and ranked their captain. He first shewed the king the skill of his archers in shooting, and then leading the ladies into the wood, regaled them with an entertainment of venison and wine under green arbours and booths, adorned with gaudy pageantry, when all the efforts of romantic gallantry practised in that luxurious court were amply displayed.

Some years ago, an ancient piece of money was found at Eltham, the coin being well preserved, in consequence of its having remained so long in a *stratum* of white sand, wherein it was discovered, the weight being fifteen grains and a half.

Mr. Charles Clarke, late of Baliol college, Oxford, in 1751, published some conjectures endeavouring to prove the above a coin of Richard I., which was followed by another publication from the pen of G. North, shewing the improbability of that conjecture, and maintained it to be no coin of Richard I., nor from any royal mint, but a piece of base money, denominated *Penny-yard pence*, from being stamped or made at Penny yard, a place near Ross, in Herefordshire, about the time of Henry III., when that species of money is supposed to have been fabricated at the forges there, for the currency of the workmen employed.

In the time of William the Conqueror, Eltham was part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, of whom it was held by Hamo, sheriff of the county, and entered accordingly in Domesday under the general title of the lands of that prelate.

On the disgrace of Odo, all his estates were confiscated to the crown, when this palace afterwards belonged in part to the king, and partly to the family of the Mandevil's, whence it was called *Eltham Mandevil.* Edward I. gave his part of

Eltham, with lands in Northumberland, in the 9th year of his reign, to John, son of William de Vesci, a potent northern baron, who had, the year before, married Isabel de Beaumont, Queen Eleanor's kinswoman; in the 14th year of the same reign he gave the sixth part of the manor of Luton in Bedfordshire, in exchange to Walter de Mandevil for his part of Eltham, and died without issue, in the 19th year of the same prince, holding the manor of Eltham of the king by knight's service, leaving William, his brother, and Isabel, his wife, his surviving heirs.

William de Vesci was summoned to Parliament in the 23d year of that reign; and having married Isabel, daughter of Adam de Periton, had by her an only son, John, who died without issue during the life of his father, upon which, having no legitimate issue, he, in the 24th year of the same reign, enfeoffed that great prelate, Anthony Beke, bishop of Durham, and patriarch of Jerusalem, in several of his estates, among which was the inheritance of Eltham, then held by Isabel, widow of John de Vesci, for her life; on this special trust, that he should retain them for the use of William de Vesci, his illegitimate son, by Dergavill, his concubine, daughter of Dunwald, a petty prince in Ireland; the year after which, he died. This William the Bastard, commonly called William de Vesci, of Kildare, married Maud, widow of Thomas Neville, of Chitham, and was slain in the battle of Strivelin, in Scotland, otherwise the battle of Bannockburn, in the 8th of Edward II., having been summoned to Parliament in the 6th year of that reign. He bore for his arms, *Gules a cross argent.*

The family of Vesci was descended from Yoo de Vesci, a Norman, who came with the Conqueror, and, through his power, married Alda, daughter and heir of William Tyson, lord of the large baronies of Alnwicke, in Northumberland, and Malton, in Yorkshire. He was the son of Gilbert Tyson, slain fighting for King Harold, at the battle of Hastings: by Alda he had an only daughter and heir, Beatrix, who married Eustace Fitz-John, one of the chief peers of England, and in great favor with Henry I.

On the death of the Bastard, William de Vesci, without issue (who does not appear to have been in possession of

Eltham house) this manor descended to Gilbert Aton, by the will of his kinsman, William de Vesci, the father, of whom he was the right heir.

This Sir Gilbert de Aton, lord Vesci, bore for his arms, *Barry of six, or, and azure on a canton, gules, a cross flory, argent.* He granted the manor of Eltham Mandevil, with all those hereditaments in the county of Kent, which had been part of the possessions of William de Vesci, of Kildare, to Geoffry le Scrope, of Masham, who obtained the king's confirmation in the 11th of Edward II. However, it seems he had only a term in this manor, for when Edward III., in his 4th year, took him into favor, and again made him chief justice of the King's Bench, of which post he had been dispossessed from being so high in favor with the late king, he gave him the inheritance of this manor of Eltham Mandevil to hold by the accustomed services. He was afterwards advanced to the dignity of a banneret, with the grant of two hundred *marks* per annum, for the support of that honour, and died in the 13th year of the same reign, at which time the court of this manor, stated *Curia de Mandevil,* was held sometimes at Eltham and at others at Woolwich. Soon after, but by what means we have not found, this manor devolved to the crown, where the inheritance has ever since remained. Several grants have been made of the property from time to time, some for terms of years, and others for lives, by the successive kings and queens of England.

Henry VIII, in his 14th year, granted the farm and land of Eltham and other premises, for the term of forty years, to Sir Henry Guildford. At the latter end of that reign, the manor of Eltham was in the possession of Sir Thomas Speke, on whose death, Edward VI., by letters patent, in his 5th year, granted to Sir John Gates, among other premises, this manor, with all its appurtenances, as well within his parks of Eltham, as without, and all other franchises, courts, and views of frankpledge, which came into the hands of the king by the death of Sir Thomas Speke, to hold for life, at the yearly rent of £31 0 10d. In the 10th of Elizabeth, William Cromer, esq. was possessed of the queen's manor of Eltham; and under Charles I., the earl of Dorset seems to have been

Drawn by T.M.Baynes. Engraved by W.Watkins.

ELTHAM PALACE.

KENT.

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in possession of those lands belonging to this manor, demised by the crown, which, after the king's death, were in the possession of Sir Thomas Walsingham, who officiated as high steward.

The manor of Eltham was in the hands of the crown at the death of Charles I., in 1648, when becoming vested in the state, it was sold to different persons, but, upon the Restoration, returned to the crown.

Sir John Shaw having purchased a subsidiary term of this manor, King Charles II., in consideration of the eminent services performed by that personage, and promises before made, granted to him, in 1663, a new and longer term, which was again renewed, and passed into the possession of his great great grandson, Sir John Shaw, of Eltham lodge, bart., as lessee of the crown, to whom the inheritance belonged.

This manor extends over the whole parish of Eltham, the hamlet of Mottingham, the township of Woolwich, and the south side of Foot's Cray, in the parish of Chiselhurst. The jury appoints two constables and two ale-tasters for Eltham, a borsholder for Nottingham, and a borsholder for the part of Foot's Cray, within its jurisdiction, the tenants of the manor being all free tenants.

The King's House, or Eltham Palace was, most probably, built on part of those premises, granted by Edward I. to John de Vesci, and possibly on the very site of the house where King Henry III., in his 55th year publicly kept his Christmas, according to the custom of those times, being accompanied by the queen, and all the great men of the realm.

In the following reign of Edward I., Anthony Beke, bishop of Durham, in whom the lands and possessions of Vesci, in Eltham, were then vested, after reserving to himself an estate for life, granted the reversion of Eltham house, with its appurtenances, to the crown. He died here in the 4th of Edward II., after having bestowed great cost on the buildings at this place. The Bishop of Durham being dead, Edward II. resided here; where, in his 9th year, his queen was delivered of a son, called, from the place of his birth, *John of Eltham*, about which time the *statutes of Eltham*, con-

taining precedents for the government of the king's household to the present day were made at this palace.

Edward III., in his 4th year, summoned a Parliament to meet at Eltham; as adjoining to several of the ancient palaces of the kings of England, was a large room, or hall, for the accommodation of such an assembly, as well as other large meetings and festivities, which was sometimes called the parliament chamber; in other royal mansions the hall served for these purposes, of which last description was Westminster hall, and that of the palace at Eltham, wherein, most probably, these parliaments were held; the latter is still standing, being a noble and spacious building of free-stone, well adapted for the purpose of holding so large an assembly. It is now converted into a barn, commonly called *King John's barn*, and stands on the site of the old palace. The same monarch, in his 38th year, intending to give a princely reception to King John of France, who had been his prisoner in England, and then came over as a visitor, received him at Eltham, where he entertained that prince with great magnificence. Edward III. again held a Parliament at this palace in his 50th year, when the lords and commons attended with a petition, wherein, among other matters, they prayed him to constitute his grandson, Richard of Bourdeaux, son and heir of Edward, late Prince of Wales, and heir apparent to the realm, *Prince of Wales;* Lionel, third son of King Edward III. and guardian of the realm, being then engaged in prosecuting the war in France.

Richard II. resided much at his palace of Eltham, taking great delight in this place, and, in the 10th year of his reign, he, with his queen, and his court, kept their Christmas here with great festivity; he also received *Leo, king of Armenia*, who had been driven out of his dominions by the Turks, whom he entertained most sumptuously.

Henry IV. resided continually at Eltham, and kept his last Christmas at this palace, but being taken ill, was conveyed to London, where he soon after died. His son and successor, Henry V. in his 3d year, visited this palace, with the design of keeping his Christmas with much feasting, but was compelled to leave the place abruptly on the discovery of a plot to assassinate him.

Henry VI. made this place his principal residence, having there kept his Christmas, regaling with much splendor and feasting, in his 8th year. In his 17th year he renewed, by charter, to the tenants of his manor at Eltham, their market, with large additional privileges, as may be seen in the original records of that year, in the tower of London.

King Edward IV. repaired this palace, with much cost, and enclosed Horne park, so called from its being the site of the manor of Horne, which was anciently the king's demesne, as appears by the grant of Edward III., in his 21st year, to all his tenants of this manor, to be toll-free, throughout England. Bridget, the king's fourth daughter, was born at Eltham, in the 20th year of his reign, and the following day baptized by the Bishop of Chichester; she afterwards became a nun, at Dartford, in this county. Two years after, the same prince kept a splendid Christmas at Eltham, with grand feastings, two thousand people having been daily fed at his expense.

Henry VII. built a handsome front to this palace, towards the moat, and usually resided here, it also appears from a record in the office of Arms, that he generally dined in the great hall of the palace. Henry VIII. neglected this mansion, and built much at Greenwich, though he occasionally resided at Eltham, particularly in his 7th year, when keeping his Whitsuntide at this royal residence, he created Sir Edward Stanley, knt., Lord Monteagle, for his services performed against the Scots at Flodden field. Some contagious disorder reigning at that time in London, none were permitted to dine in the king's hall but the officers of arms, who, at the serving of the king's second course of meat, according to custom, came and proclaimed the king's style and title, and also that of the new lord. The king kept his Christmas at Eltham, with balls and feasting the same year, as he again did in 1527. Yet, being more pleased with his palace at Greenwich, he, by degrees, entirely neglected this manor, and it was consequently, in a few years, totally deserted by the royal family.

From the survey, taken by the state after the death of Charles I., in 1648, it appeared that the capital house, built with brick, stone, and timber, called Eltham house, consisted

of a fair chapel, a great hall, thirty-six rooms, and offices below stairs, with two large cellars: above stairs, in lodgings, called the king's side, seventeen lodging rooms; on the queen's side, twelve chambers; and on the prince's side, nine lodging rooms; in all, thirty-eight, with various other necessary apartments and closets: thirty-five bays of buildings round the court yard, which contained one acre of ground, the said bays of buildings containing about seventy-eight rooms, used as offices. The whole, it appeared, were much out of repair, and the materials valued at £2753, exclusive of the charge of taking it down. The great park contained 596 acres: the deer were all destroyed, and the park dilapidated by the soldiery and common people; the trees, besides those marked out for the use of the navy, being 1060 in number, very old and decayed. From the above document, it appeared that the middle park, adjoining the other, and next to Mottingham, contained 333 acres; that the lodge belonging to the same, lay in the middle, but that the park was dismantled like the former. The trees were 324 in number, besides those marked out for the navy, which were 1000; that the parcel of impaled ground, called Horne, otherwise Lee park, in Eltham and Lee, contained 336 acres; that the demesne lands, with the parks, &c., above mentioned, contained 1652 acres, the total value of which was £860 19 2, the improvements of the same £202 6 7; and that the sum of 40s. was always payable to the vicar for or in lieu of tithes of hay.

After that survey, the manor, with its appurtenances, were sold to different persons, in whose possession they remained till the restoration of Charles II., in 1660, when the inheritance again returned to the crown.

Sir John Shaw was, at that period, in possession of the manor of Eltham and its appurtenances, when Charles II., in consideration of his eminent services, granted him a *long term* in the state, the same being renewed from time to time; after which, that family constantly resided at the *great manor lodge*, which stands in the grand park, adjoining the town of Eltham. The lodge was fitted up and much improved, when it became the residence of Sir John Gregory Shaw, bart., great great grandson of the before-mentioned Sir John; it was sub-

sequently the residence of Mr. Sergeant Best. There is a yearly feefarm rent paid for the great park to the crown, amounting to £153 3 4.

The family of Shaw derives its origin from the county palatine of Chester. Hugo de Shaw, of that place, having behaved bravely under the earl of Chester, in an enterprise against Llewelin, prince of Wales, near the castle of Ruthin, had several manors, with a daughter of the earl, given to him in marriage.

Randal de Shaw, his son, of Haslington hall, married a daughter of Reginald Venables, of Aydon, in that county, from whom, in a lineal descent, after many generations, came Robert Shaw, of Haslington hall, whose descendant was Robert Shaw, of London, and of Shaws court, in Surrey, who had by Christian, daughter of William Donnelaw, merchant, three sons, Robert, Sir John Shaw, and George, of Antwerp.

Sir John Shaw, besides other considerable rewards, had the dignity of a baronet conferred upon him by letters patent, April 15, 1665, for the assistance he had afforded Charles II. at Brussels and Antwerp, during his exile. He had two wives, first, Anne, daughter of Sir Joseph Ashe, by whom he had Sir John, his successor; and secondly, he married Bridget, relict of Charles viscount Kilmoney, and daughter of Sir William Drury, of Besthorp, in Norfolk, by whom he had several children, and from her there are no descendants remaining. Sir John Shaw, bart., only son by his first wife, succeeded his father, who died in 1721; he was twice married, first, to Margery, daughter and sole heir of Sir John Peake, lord mayor of London, by whom he had Sir John, his successor, and two daughters. His second wife was Sarah, one of the daughters of William Paggen, of London, merchant, by whom he had three sons, William Shaw, of Cheshunt house, in Hertfordshire, Paggen, and Peter Shaw, merchants; and six daughters. Sir John Shaw, bart., eldest son by his first wife, succeeded his father in dignity and estate, and married Anna Maria, eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Barnardiston, bart. of Ketton, in Suffolk, by whom he had Sir John, his successor, and a daughter, Anna Maria, married to Peter Delme, esq. He died in 1739, and was succeeded by his only surviving son, the late Sir John Shaw, of Eltham lodge, who married Elizabeth,

daughter of William Hedges, of Alderton, in Wiltshire, by whom he left no issue; he married, secondly, Martha, daughter and coheir of John Kennard, esq., of Yalding, by whom he left two sons, John Gregory, born in 1756, and John Kennard, of Town Malling, and vicar of this parish. Sir John Shaw, bart. died in 1779, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir John Gregory Shaw, who, in 1782, married Catherine, sister of John lord Monson, by whom he had issue several children. He bears for his arms, *Argent, a chevron between three fusils, ermine.*

Henley's was anciently a place of some note in this parish, having, in the reign of Edward III., been esteemed a manor, when it belonged to John de Henley, whose house was moated round. On his death, without issue, it devolved by his gift to Edward III., and was annexed to the manor of Eltham by William de Brantingham, his feoffee; the house was situated below the Conduit head, in a field, at this time called the Conduit field.

The manor of Easthorne and the mansion of Well hall were, in the 1st of Henry I., possessed by Sir Jordan de Briset, a wealthy and pious man, who was lord of Clerkenwell, where he founded a nunnery. He afterwards gave the nuns ten acres of land in his lordship of Welyng hall, in Kent, in return for ten acres which they had granted him, whereon he founded his hospital of Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, being the first of that order established in England. He bore for his arms, *a griffin volant.*

Sir Jordan de Briset died in the 11th of Henry I., and was buried in the chapter house of the hospital of St. John, as was afterwards Muriel, his wife. By her he left three daughters and coheirs, the two youngest of whom died without issue; the eldest, Lecia, married, first, Sir Henry Foliot, from whom descended the family of that name in Worcestershire; and secondly, Sir William Mountenay, of Essex, from whom sprang the Mountenay's, in that county.

In the reign of Edward I., Mathew de Higham held this estate, situated within the manor of Horne, by reason of dower, of Arnold de Mandevil. In the 20th of Edward III., Sir John de Pulteney held the estate in the same manner, and died in the 23d year of the same reign, leaving William de

Pulteney his son and heir; and Margaret, his widow, surviving, afterwards married to Sir Nicholas Lovain. William de Pulteney, the son, was subsequently knighted, and died without issue in the 40th year of that prince, leaving his kinsman, Robert de Pulteney, his heir.

This family was succeeded in its possessions at this place, in the reign of Richard II., by William Chichele, citizen of London, who died in the 4th of Henry VI., leaving by Beatrice his wife, daughter of William Barnett, esq., two sons and two daughters. John, the youngest, had this estate, having been citizen and chamberlain of London, who married Margery, daughter of Sir Thomas Knollys, by whom he had twenty-four children. Agnes, the eldest, married John Tattersall, esq., and conveyed to her husband the manors of Easthorne and Well hall, besides other estates at Woolwich and elsewhere in this neighbourhood. After the decease of John Tattersall, we only find that he left one son, of whom no further mention is made.

Agnes, the widow of John Tattersall, the father, afterwards married Sir William Kene, who was sheriff of Kent under Henry VI., and resided at Well hall, which he held in her right. By her former husband, John Tattersall, she had two daughters, coheirs; Anne, married to Sir Ralph Hastings; and Margery, to John Roper, of Swacliffe, who in her right became possessed of the inheritance of the manor of Easthorne and Well hall.

The family of the Roper's derived its origin from Haculf Musard, who, in the Conqueror's reign, was as eminent for his virtue and piety, as for his opulence. His manors, from his being seated at Miserden, in Gloucestershire, were in general, though lying in different counties, comprehended under the name of *Baronia de Miserden*. He was succeeded by his son, Richard, who died in the 33d of Henry II., and his younger son, William, was surnamed *Rubra Spatha* and *Rougespe*, which was afterwards contracted to Roper. From one of his posterity, about the reign of Edward I., as some ancient evidences affirm, the Roper's, of Kent, derive their descent; from whom also, those of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire (who flourished till the reign of Henry VI.,) also sprang; at which time, Isolda, only daughter of John Roper, of Turndich,

marrying Richard, eldest son of Richard Furneaux, of Beighton, in Derbyshire, covenanted, that his son, and all his issue by her, should thenceforth forsake their paternal name, and assume that of Roper. Thence descended the Roper's, viscounts Baltinglass, barons of Bantry, in Ireland, and those of Hull, in Yorkshire.

Among others of this name who flourished in those early times, was William Rosper, or De Rubra Spatha, who, under Henry III., was a great benefactor to St. Martin's priory, in Dover. John de Rubra Spatha, or Rosper, performed eminent services in Scotland under Edward III., who rewarded him and William Clifford, (as appears by a pedigree recorded in the duke of Dorset's pedigree,) about the 29th year of his reign, with the third part of those forfeitures due from the Jews, then inhabiting London, they having violated some penal statutes, which had been enacted against them. In the 1st of Richard II., the king calling upon his subjects, on an emergency, for money, John Roper, of Canterbury, lent £40, to furnish out a fleet against the French and Scots; and Henry Ropere, of Redyng, the following year, lent the king £20 for the like purpose.

The *heraldic visitation* of this county, taken by John Philipott, *Rouge dragon*, in 1619, contains the pedigree of this family, beginning with Edwin Roper, of the county of Kent, whose son, Adam Roper, had two sons, Thomas and Edmund, who was prior of Bilsington, in this county.

Thomas Roper married the daughter of Thomas de Apuldore, and by her he had one son and heir, Ralph, who was twice married, first, to Beatrix, daughter of Sir Thomas Lewknor; and secondly, to the daughter of Thomas Kempe, of Wye.

By his first wife he had John, who died without issue in 1401; Agnes, married to Walter Colepeper, esq. of Bedgbury; and Edmund, who was of St. Dunstan's, an eminent man in the reigns of Henry IV. and V., under whom he was justice of the peace for this county. He died in the 12th of Henry VI., leaving two sons, John Roper, esq. of Swacliffe, and Edmund John Roper, who succeeded his father at St. Dunstan's. He was one of the surveyors of the customs of the Cinque Ports under Henry VII., in his 19th year, and married Margery,

daughter and coheir of John Tattersall, before mentioned, having died A.D. 1488. He had by her two sons, John Roper, who in right of his mother, having survived her husband, became possessed of the manor of Easthorne and Well hall; and Thomas, to whom his father left by his will Brenley, in Boughton under Blean; and a daughter, Margery, wife of John Boys, of Nonington, in Kent. John Roper, the eldest son, was of Well hall and St. Dunstan's, and sheriff of this county in the 12th of Henry VIII., and afterwards attorney general, and prothonotary of the King's Bench. He died in 1524, leaving by Jane, his wife, daughter of Sir John Fineaux, chief justice of England, several sons and daughters; of the sons, Christopher, the younger, was seated at Linsted lodge, from whom descended the Roper's, lords Teynham, and the late Trevor Roper, lord Dacre.

William Roper, the eldest son, born in 1495, was prothonotary of the King's Bench, and succeeded his father in his estate here and at St. Dunstan's, whose lands were disgaveled by the Acts passed in the 31st of Henry VIII. and in the 2d and 3d of Edward VI. He was sheriff of Kent under Philip and Mary, and married Margaret, daughter of Sir John Moore, lord chancellor of England. He died in 1577, aged eighty-two, and was buried in the vault under the chapel, adjoining the chancel, in St. Dunstan's church, next to Margaret his wife, who, as her inscription informs us, was a woman most learned in the Greek and Latin tongues. He left by her two sons and three daughters; of the former, Anthony, the youngest, settled at Farningham, in this county; and Thomas, the eldest, succeeded his father, as well in his estates of Easthorne, Well hall, and St. Dunstan's, as in his office of prothonotary of the King's Bench. Thomas Roper, the eldest son, was of Eltham, and married Lucy, sister of Anthony Browne, viscount Montacute, by whom he had ten sons and ten daughters, and died in 1597. William Roper, the eldest son, succeeded his father at Well hall and St. Dunstan's, and was afterwards knighted. He married Catherine, daughter and coheir of Sir Anthony Browne, of Ridley hall, chief justice of the court of Common Pleas, by whom he had two sons, Anthony Roper, of Well hall, in Eltham; Thomas, who married Susan, daughter

of John Winchcombe, of Henwick, in Berkshire; and one daughter.

Anthony Roper succeeded his father in the manors of Easthorne and Well hall, in this parish and St. Dunstan's, before mentioned. He was thrice married; first, to Maria, daughter of William Gerarde, esq. of Trent, in Somersetshire, by whom he had one daughter, Margaret; secondly, to Dorothy, daughter of Thomas Holte, esq. of Warwickshire, by whom he had no issue; and thirdly, to a daughter of Sir Henry Compton, of Brambletye, in Sussex, by whom he had issue, Edward, his successor. Edward Roper, esq. was of Well hall and St. Dunstan's, and married Catherine, daughter of James Butler, esq. of Sussex, by whom he left a daughter, Elizabeth, who married Edward Henshaw, esq. of Hampshire, and becoming sole heir to her father, brought her husband this seat of Well hall, as also the paternal seat and inheritance of the Roper's, in St. Dunstan's. This elder branch of the Roper's bore for their arms, a coat of *twelve quarterings*, viz. first, *Roper, per fess, azure, and or, a pale and three roebucks' heads erased, counterchanged;* second, *Apledore;* third, *St. Laurence*; fourth, *Tattersall;* fifth, *Apulderfield;* sixth, *Appleton;* seventh, *Twite;* eighth, *Browne;* ninth, *Swan;* tenth, *Francis;* eleventh, *Champneis;* twelfth, *Roper, as before.* These twelve quarterings were attested to belong to this branch of Roper, by John Philipott Somerset, herald.

Mr. Henshaw died in 1726, leaving three daughters and coheirs; Catherine, married to William Strickland, esq.; Elizabeth, to Sir Edward Dering, bart.; and the third daughter, to Sir Rowland Wynne, bart.

They joined in the sale of the manors of Easthorne and Well hall, about the year 1733, to Sir Gregory Page, bart. of Wricklesmarsh, who pulled down the mansion of Well hall, and built a farm-house in the room of the same, which, with the advowsons belonging thereto, continued in the possession of Sir Gregory Page till his death, in 1775. He by will bequeathed this estate to his nephew, Sir Gregory Turner Page, bart. of Oxfordshire, in tail, the present possessor.

Well Hall farm now consists of 200 acres of land, let at about £200 per annum. The great hall of this mansion con-

tained the celebrated picture, from the pencil of Hans Holbein, representing Sir Thomas Moore, lord chancellor, and his family, comprising twelve figures, designed with masterly strength and beauty. The painting in question occupied nearly the whole end of the hall, being valued at £1000, and had remained there from the time it was occupied until 1731, when Sir Rowland Wynne removed it hence, about the period when the estate was sold.

Corbye, otherwise Corbyn hall, was once a place of some account in Eltham, though the name is at present hardly known. It was anciently the seat of a family of the name of Corbie, which, as early as the reign of Henry III., had also an estate at Whithurst, in Marden, in this county. These estates went in marriage with Joan, daughter of Robert Corbie, to Sir Nicholas Wotton, lord mayor of London under Henry V. But in the reign of Edward VI., this place was in the hands of the crown, as that king, by his letters patent, in his 5th year, granted, among other premises, to Sir John Gates, for his life, the house or tenement, called Corbye, otherwise Corbyn hall, with its appurtenances, in Eltham, and one cottage, with the garden and appurtenances, near the site of the parish-church of Eltham, at the yearly rent of 6s. 8d. They had devolved to the king by the death of Sir Thomas Speke; after which, Queen Elizabeth, in 1592, granted a lease of the property to lord Cobham; since which, the house seems to have continued in the crown, and been blended with the rest of its possessions in this parish.

Park Place farm is a seat situated near the east end of the town of Eltham, at no great distance from the high road. It was formerly in the possession of Mr. Richard Nunn, whose widow, on his decease, possessed it for her life, and resided there. On her demise, it went to lady Mary Henrietta, wife of lord viscount Hinchingbrooke, their granddaughter, being the only surviving child of their daughter, Henrietta, by lord Harry Powlet, afterwards duke of Bolton, and she possessed it by inheritance in virtue of the will of her grandfather. She sold it to Thomas Lucas, esq. of Lee, who soon afterwards disposed of it to William James, m.p., for West Looe, who having almost rebuilt the house and enclosed a park round the same, gave it the above name of *Park Place farm*. In July

1778, he was created a baronet, and dying in 1784, left the possession of the estate to his widow; but it was demised by her to Sir Benjamin Hammet, who afterwards resided there.

The hamlet of Southend, in this parish, is situated about a mile eastward from the town of Eltham, on the high road to Maidstone, whereon stands a seat, formerly the residence of Sir Robert Wythens, sheriff and alderman of London, descended from the county palatine of Chester. In his descendants it continued to Sir Francis Wythens, sergeant at law, who died possessed of it in 1704, having borne for his arms, *Gules, a chevron embattled between three martlets, or;* which shield was confirmed by Sir William Dethic, garter at arms, in 1593. This estate soon after devolved to the possession of Richard Comport Fitch, esq., who resided here, and by whose daughter and heir, Anne, it went in marriage to Sir Thomas Fitch, who, in 1688, had been created a baronet, and died a few days after. It then descended to Sir Comport Fitch, bart. of this place, whose sole daughter and heir, Alice, carried it in marriage, in 1740, to Sir John Barker, bart. of Sproughton, in Suffolk, who, in 1759, married Lucy, daughter of Sir Richard Lloyd. He died without issue by either of his wives, and left the property by will to Robert Nassau, only brother of the Hon. Richard Savage Nassau, eldest son of the earl of Rochford, who sold it to Mr. Burgess; and he, not long afterwards, alienated it to Mrs. Anne Green, widow, who resided there.

Mottingham is a hamlet, lying partly in this parish, and partly in that of Chesilhurst, at about a mile southward from Eltham church. It was anciently called Modingham, from the Saxon words *modig*, proud or lofty, and *ham*, a dwelling.

In King Edward the Confessor's confirmation of the gift of Elthruda, King Alfred's niece, of the manor of Lewisham and its appendages, to the abbey of St. Peter's, at Ghent, in Flanders, in 1044, *Modingsham* is mentioned as one of them belonging to that manor; but the succeeding grants of Lewisham manor make no mention of this place. In the reign of Edward I., it passed, as an appendage, to the manor of Eltham, in the grant made by that king to John de Vesci; since which, it has always been considered as part of the same, which at this time claims over the whole of this hamlet. The bounds and extent of the hamlet of *Modyngham* are thus

described in an ancient MS. remaining among the registers of the bishop of Rochester:

Memorandum, "That the lordship of Modyngham begins at Readhilde, and extends to the wood of the lord bishop, called *Elmystediswood*, towards the south; and to the field, called *Charlesfield*, towards the west; and to the woods and lands of the king in Eltham, towards the north-east."

At the beginning of the reign of King William Rufus, Ansgotus, of Chesilhurst, the king's chamberlain, was possessed of the fee of this hamlet, and gave the tithes of it to the priory of St. Andrew's, in Rochester. At the beginning of the reign of Edward III., a family of the name of Legh was possessed of certain tenements, with the lands and appurtenances belonging thereto, in Modingham and Chesilhurst; from one of that name it passed to Thomas de Bankwell, at whose decease, in the 35th year of the same reign, it was found to be possessed of them, and held of the king in gavelkind, as of his manor of Eltham, by the service of 14s. 11d. per annum rent, and performing service to the king's court at Eltham.

In the 14th of Henry VI., these premises were in the possession of Robert Cheeseman, of Lewisham and East Greenwich, who by marriage with Joane, daughter of Bernard Cavell, of Chesilhurst, had considerably increased his property in this place.

The family of Cavell was possessed of lands in that part of Modyngham which lies in Chesilhurst, as early as the reign of Edward I., for John Mayo, jun., by his deed, in the 18th of Edward I., conveyed several premises in that part of the hamlet to Bernard Cavell, sen. of Chesilhurst. The last of the Cheeseman's who held this estate was Thomas Cheeseman, whose heir, Alice, carried it in marriage to Robert Stoddard; and his son, George Stoddard, and Anne, his wife, in 1560, built the present mansion-house, called Mottingham place, which, with the lands belonging thereto, continued in their descendant till Nicholas Stoddard, esq. dying in 1765, unmarried and intestate, there appeared many claimants to the inheritance. After a long litigation in the court of Chancery, this seat, with the estate, was adjudged to an heir, by the female line, to William Bowereman, esq. of Newport, in the Isle of Wight, who passed away his interest therein to Mr. Dyneley,

and he nearly rebuilt the seat, and resided there. In the old house were the following dates and coats of arms: on the inside of the turret, 1560; on a chimney, 1561; and on an outward gate, 1635. In the glass of the windows, the following arms, *Argent, a mullet pierced, sable, on a chief, embattled sable, two mullets pierced, argent, party per chevron embattled, sable and argent, three mullets, pierced and counterchanged;* and on a chimneypiece, this coat, *Argent, three etoils of eight points impaling or, on a fess, azure, three garbs of the first, between two chevrons, gules, charged with three escalops of the first.*

At a little distance from Mottingham place, to the eastward, is a small seat, called FAIRY HILL, which was the temporary residence of Henry earl Bathurst, when lord high chancellor of England. He was the second but eldest surviving son of Allen earl of Bathurst, and being bred to the profession of the law, having been first made a justice of the court of Common Pleas, was, in 1771, further promoted to be lord high chancellor, and sworn of the Privy Council; and, on the 22d of that month, created baron Apsley, of Apsley, in Sussex. On the death of his father, in September 1775, he succeeded him in the titles and family estate at Cirencester, in Gloucestershire. Having resigned the seals, he retired there, and died in 1794, and was succeeded by his eldest son, earl Bathurst. This seat of Fairy hill afterwards became the residence of Mr. Nelson, with whom it continued.

An extraordinary event happened at Mottingham, August 4, 1585, in a field which then belonged to Sir Percival Hart. Early in the morning of that day, the ground began to sink so much, that three large elm trees were suddenly swallowed up in the pit, the tops falling down into the hole, and, before ten o'clock, they were so overwhelmed that no part of them could be discovered, the concave being suddenly filled with water. The compass of this hole was about eighty yards, and so deep, that a sounding line of fifty fathoms could scarcely reach the bottom; about ten yards distant from the above, was another piece of ground, which sunk in the same manner, near the highway, and so contiguous to a dwelling house as greatly to terrify the persons who inhabited it.

The tithes of this hamlet of Mottingham were given, in the reign of King William Rufus, by Ansgotus, the king's cham-

berlain, then owner of this place, to the priory of St. Andrew, Rochester. This gift was afterwards the occasion of frequent contentions, as well between the prior and convent of Rochester and the rectors and vicars of Eltham, as between them and the rectors of Chesilhurst. But these disputes only served to strengthen the right of the priory to the tithes, which were adjudged and confirmed to the monks of St. Andrew, from time to time, by the several bishops of Rochester and archbishops of Canterbury.

The prior and convent of St. Andrew's, Rochester, by their lease, in the 5th of Edward III., demised to Sir Henry de Redlyngton, chaplain, Laurence de Sutton, and Robert de Vayle, all the tithes of sheaves arising within the hamlet of *Modynham*, within the parishes of Chesilhurst and Eltham, and the like tithes arising in Bertrey, in the parish of Codham, at the yearly rent of eight marks sterling.

The tithes of Mottingham continued in the possession of the prior and convent, above mentioned, till the final dissolution of the monastery, which happened in March, in the 32d of Henry VIII., when they devolved, with the rest of its possessions, to the hands of the king, who, the following year, settled them on his new erected dean and chapter of Rochester.

Eltham had the honour of conferring the title of earl to his late royal highness, Frederic, afterwards prince of Wales, and father of George III., who was created earl of Eltham by his grandfather, George I., on the 21st of July, in the 12th year of his reign. He died in March 20, 1751, and was succeeded in that earldom by his eldest son, George, born May 24th, 1738, afterwards prince of Wales, who, on the death of his grandfather, George II., in 1760, succeeded to the crown of these realms, having been the late George III.

ELTHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Dartford. The church, which stands at the west end of the village, is dedicated to St. John the Baptist.

William earl of Gloucester, on his founding the priory within his manor of Keynsham, in Somersetshire, about the year 1170, granted, as patron and lord of the soil, to the church of Sts. Mary and Peter, of Keynsham, and the canons

regular there, in fee and perpetual alms, the church of St. John of Haultham, with its appurtenances. His grandson, Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester and Hertford, confirmed this gift; as did John, bishop of Bath and Wells, in 1314; and Edward II., in his 11th year, in his general confirmation of the possessions of the priory to them.

The church of Eltham was appropriated to the abbey of Keynsham by Richard de Wendover, bishop of Rochester, A.D. 1242, so that the canons, during the life of Robert de Londone, then parson of the same, should receive the sum of 100s., to be paid by him, in the name of the parsonage, with licence for them, after his death, or resignation, to enter into full possession, saving, nevertheless, to the bishop, in all things, his right of diocesan, and of instituting a perpetual vicar, to be taxed therein, with the assent of the above-mentioned abbot.

This church was, in the 15th of Edward I., valued at twenty marks, and the vicarage at 100s. Edward III., in his 7th year, directed his writ to the bishop of Rochester to return the names of all aliens beneficed within his diocese, and those of the respective benefices, as well as such as resided on them; to which the bishop made return, that Sir Peter de Boileau, an alien, held the vicarage of the church of Eltham, taxed at 100s., and that he resided on the same.

An exchange was made, under Edward III., between the king and the prior of Rochester, whereby the latter granted to the king and his heirs, for ever, among other premises, all the tithes to which they, in right of their church or otherwise, were entitled, and had within the king's park of Eltham; for which the king gave them tenements and rents in the parish of St. Bride, in Fleet street, late Hugh Stubbys, and certain tenements and rents in the parish of St. John Zachary, London, late belonging to Walter de Hendon; all which were worth twenty marks and sixpence per annum. They became forfeited, and in the hands of the king, by the devise of the said Hugh and Walter, in mortmain, contrary to the statute, and without the licence of the king. On the dissolution of the abbey of Keynsham, in the 30th of Henry VIII., the church of Eltham and advowson of the vicarage devolved to the crown, with the other possessions of that monastery.

Henry VIII., in his 36th year, granted the rectory of Eltham to Sir John Hendley, to hold by fealty only. He died without issue male, leaving three daughters and coheirs, one of whom, Helen, conveyed this rectory to her husband, Thomas Colepeper, esq. of Bedgbury, who sold it to William Roper, esq. of Well hall. He, in the reign of Edward VI., reserving the advowson of the vicarage, conveyed the rectory of Eltham to Oriel college, Oxford, with a stipulation that, on paying £100 as a fine, and a yearly rent of £14, the college should grant a lease of the same, either for three lives, or thirty-one years, to him and his heirs, of the family of Roper.

Anthony Roper was the last life in the lease, and his son, Edward, being left an infant, his trustees neglected to renew the term, upon which, the college granted the rectory in lease to Richard Comport, gent. of Eltham, who had a grant from Sir Edward Walter, Garter king at arms, in 1663, of the following bearing, viz. *Argent on a chevron, gules, three quartre-foils of the first, between three torteaux.* His only daughter and heir married Sir Thomas Fitch, and brought her husband this rectory, and on his death, in 1688, it descended to his son, Sir Comport Fitch, who died possessed of it in 1720. His daughter and heir, Alice, carried it in marriage to Sir John Barker, bart. of Suffolk; after which, it passed in the same manner as his estates at Southend, in this parish, by the devise of his son, Sir John Fitch Barker, bart., to Robert Nassau, esq., who became the lessee.

The advowson of the vicarage still continued, as before mentioned, in the patronage of the Roper family, down to Edward Roper, esq. of Well hall, the last male heir of this branch, who died in 1722. It then passed, in like manner as Well hall and the rest of his estates in this parish, down to Sir Gregory Page, bart., who, at his death, without issue, in 1775, bequeathed it by will to his great nephew, Sir Gregory Turner Page, bart. of Oxfordshire, in whom it became vested.

This vicarage is a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear certified value of £32 8, the annual tenths being 6s. 2d.

By the *commission of Inquiry*, in 1650, it was returned, that Eltham was a vicarage, worth £27 5 per annum. In 1734, it was augmented by the governors of Queen Anne's bounty, at

which time, Sir Gregory Page, bart. contributed £100 for the like purpose.

In 1767, this church was modernized and beautified, at no little expense, and being too small to contain the parishioners, was much enlarged, whereby the ancient chancel of the Tattersall's was destroyed.

In this church, among others on the south side of the altar, is a monument for Richard Peter, clerk, vicar of this church; another for Anne, wife of Dr. Richard Owen, and several of their children; on an achievement, under date 1664, *Two shields lozengy,* first Philipott, *quartered with seven other coats, impaling* Glover, *and three other coats,* and an inscription; near it, lies interred Susan, late wife of John Philipott, esq., Somerset herald, designed Norroy, and daughter and sole heir of William Glover, esq., and Elizabeth his wife, daughter and heir of Henry Harlackenden, esq., as also Susan, her eldest daughter. There are also several monuments for the family of the Cooke's, and in the chancel, a tomb for Margery, late wife of Edward Isham, esq. of Walmer. A memorial, round the verge of a flat stone, for John, son of Edward Colleton, gent. of Milverton, Somersetshire. In the centre aisle, a memorial for Clement Hobson, esq., vicar of this church, who died aged ninety-one; memorials also for several of the families of the Smith's and Bowles's. The following inscriptions were, on brass plates on the pavement, now entirely lost: for Dame Margerie, late wife of John Roper, esq.; for John, son and heir of Margaret Morton, of Ashby de la Zouch, in Leicestershire; for Thomas Pierle; and John Pasley, yeoman porter to Henry VIII. In the family vault of the Burton's, in this church, are interred the remains of the worthy and excellent Dr. George Horne, late bishop of Norwich, who died much lamented and admired by all. It may not be deemed improper to insert here, that the before-mentioned John Philipott, esq., born at Folkestone, was a great loyalist, and followed the king to Oxford, but being seized by the rebels, was conveyed prisoner to London, but soon released, when he lived afterwards in great obscurity. He died, and was buried within the precincts of St. Paul's wharf, in 1645, having written several books, and among others, *Villare Cantianum,* or *Kent illustrated and surveyed,* which his son, Thomas Philipott, robbed his

father of the merit of having written, publishing the same work under his own name, in folio, London, A.D. 1659.

Richard III. granted a salary of ten marks per annum to Sir Henry Brokas, chaplain within the manor of Eltham.

Henry VIII., by his letters patent, in his 19th year, granted to Robert Burste, chaplain, the perpetual chantry within his manor of Eltham, and the mansion there, called *the Chantry Priest's house*, situated at the farthest part of this manor; which chantry and mansion Richard Stone, the last chaplain, possessed. The king appointed him perpetual chaplain there, for his life, to say mass daily, for his own welfare, that of his consort Queen Catherine, and all others their progenitors, according to him the annual salary of ten marks sterling.

Edward VI., in his 5th year, granted to Sir John Gates the reversion of the above premises and salary.

An *obit* was founded in the church of Eltham by the will of Elizabeth Hogeson, and another by the testament of John Colin; the possessions were called Denny's mead, Colly acre, and Crowch's croft, being of the clear yearly value of 16s. 8d., as appeared from the survey taken in consequence of the Acts passed in the 1st of Edward VI. and in the 37th of Henry VIII., for the surrendry of chantries, lights, and obits.

In 1821 there were 313 dwellings in the parish of Eltham; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 898, females 985, making a total of 1883 souls. The entire parish of Eltham contains 1977 inhabitants, as Mottingham numbers 40 males, 54 females, total as above.

Woolwich lies on the banks of the Thames, eastward of Charlton, and was called, in the time of the Saxons, *Hulviz*, which, in the language of that nation, signified the dwelling on the creek of the river. By this name it is called in the survey of Domesday; but in the *Textus Roffensis* it is written *Wlewic.*

This seems, in former times, to have been a small fishing place, but very thinly inhabited, owing, probably, to the lowness of its situation, and the overflowings of the river prior to its embankment.

A small part of this parish lies on the opposite side of the river Thames, adjoining Essex, yet within the county of Kent. Probably *Haimo, Vicecomes,* or sheriff of this county, in the time of the Conqueror, being possessed of Woolwich on this side of the river, as well as the lands adjoining on the other shore, procured them, either by composition or grant, from the king, to be annexed to his jurisdiction, as part of his county, and then incorporated them with this district. An old MS. mentions, that the parish of Woolwich had on the Essex side of the Thames 500 acres of land, some few houses, and a chapel of ease. There are several instances of different counties in this kingdom, having been, at the above period, separated from small districts belonging to the same, by parts of those adjoining having intervened.

THE TOWN OF WOOLWICH, situated on the banks of the river, is very populous, and has received considerable improvements for many years back. Its extent has, consequently, much increased, considerable amendments having been effected by an Act of Parliament, passed for paving and watching the town, in the 47th of George III. Under the provisions of that Act, a new market-house was erected, there being a weekly market on Fridays, which is, however, but thinly attended. Several vessels, denominated the hulks, are stationed on the river Thames, in the vicinity of the Arsenal and Dockyard, for the reception of convicts sentenced for a certain time to confinement, who are employed in various labours connected with those establishments. According to the returns made under the population Act, in 1811, Woolwich then contained 2446 dwellings, and 17054 inhabitants. The principal and most interesting objects of curiosity at this place are the DOCKYARD, the ROYAL ARSENAL, and various works and buildings connected with the OFFICE OF ORDNANCE.

It is not precisely ascertained when the *Dockyard* was first established; Bishop Gibson, however, supposes it to be the oldest royal dock in the kingdom. It has been progressively enlarged, and at present includes an area of about three quarters of a mile in length, by one furlong and a half in width; within which space are two dry docks, several slips, three mast ponds, a smith's shop, with forges for making anchors, a model loft, storehouses of various descriptions, mast-houses,

Drawn by Bartlett. Engraved by J. Rogers.

THE NEW MILITARY ACADEMY WOOLWICH.

KENT.

sheds for timber, dwellings for different officers, and other buildings; the whole managed by and under the direction and inspection of the Navy board, being visited, in general, weekly, by the junior surveyor, and occasionally by the deputy comptroller. The resident officers are, a clerk of the cheque, a storekeeper, a master shipwright and his assistants, a clerk of the survey, a master attendant, a surgeon, &c. The number of artificers and labourers employed here and in the Arsenal, in the time of war, is not less than 6000, and in time of peace, generally from 1000 to 1500 hands.

Between the Dockyard and the Royal Arsenal is an extensive building, about 400 yards in length, containing a rope-walk, in which cables of all dimensions are made, for the service of the navy, and where between 300 and 400 workmen are constantly employed.

The Royal Arsenal includes nearly sixty acres, upon which are numerous piles of buildings, and among the oldest, are the Foundery and the late Military academy, which were erected in 1719. There are three furnaces in the foundery, and a machine for boring cannon. The largest furnace will melt about seventeen tons of metal at one time; the period requisite for the performance of the operation of boring is according to the size of the piece, a twelve-pounder taking about five days. In another quadrangular range of buildings, near the foundery, are two other boring machines, and various workshops, where the ordnance, after being proved, are finished for service; brass ordnance alone are made here. The foundery is under the direction of an inspector, a master founder, and an assistant.

Nearly adjoining the foundery, is the *Laboratory*, where fire-works and cartridges, for the use of the navy and army, are made; and bombs, carcases, granadoes, &c. charged. This department is under the care of a comptroller, a chief master, two assistants, five masters, and an inspector of gunpowder, and other officers. The other buildings in the Arsenal consist of storehouses of different kinds, and workshops, in one of which a planing machine has been erected, worked by a small steam engine; the chief officers of the Arsenal are, a clerk of the cheque, a clerk of the survey, a storekeeper, &c.

The New Military Academy is situated about a mile

southward from the town, on the upper part of Woolwich common. It is built in the castellated form, after the design of — Wyatville, esq., and consists, in front, of a centre and two wings, united by a corridore, with a range of building behind, containing the hall, servants' offices, &c. The centre forms a quadrangle, with octagonal towers at the angles, and contains the teaching rooms, which are four in number, the desks of the tutors being situated in the towers. The apartments for the cadets and chief officers are in the wings; the whole edifice is embattled, and built with brick whitened over: its length is somewhat more than 200 yards; the entire expense of this building having been estimated at no less than £150,000.

The number of pupils, called cadets, amounts to about 300. The Academy is under the direction of the master general and board of Ordance for the time being, a lieutenant governor, an inspector, a professor of mathematics, and three masters; there are also professors of chemistry and fortification, and two other masters; two teachers of arithmetic, two of French, three drawing masters, dancing and fencing masters, and others. The master general of the Ordnance is always captain of the Cadets' company.

The cadets are all young gentlemen of respectable families, and on the completion of their studies, are regularly commissioned either in the artillery or engineer service. They must be at least four feet nine inches high when admitted, and be qualified to pass an examination in the Latin grammar, and in arithmetic, as far as vulgar fractions. Their age must not exceed sixteen, nor be under fourteen. They receive pay immediately, to the amount of £45 12 6 annually, which is considered sufficient to supply every necessary article, with the exception of linen.

The principal front of the Artillery Barracks comprises an extent of more than 400 yards; it consists of six ranges of brick buildings, united by a central structure of stone, ornamented with Doric columns in front, with the royal arms and military trophies above; while four lower buildings fill up the division between each range. The latter contain a library and bookroom for the officers, mess and guard rooms, and a chapel, capable of containing 1000 persons. At a short

Drawn by W.H. Bartlett

Engraved by J. Hinchliff

BARRACKS AT WOOLWICH.

KENT.

distance from the back part of the chapel is a new *Riding School*, erected of brick, from the design of — Wyatville, esq., on the model of an ancient temple. It presents a very grand appearance, and is, in length, about fifty yards, and in breadth, twenty-one.

The regiment of artillery consists of nine battalions, whereof about 2000 men are stationed at Woolwich.

On the east side of the barracks are the *Military Hospitals*, the largest of which has been lately erected, with accommodations for the reception of 700 men. There are several detached buildings for the use of the artillery, erected on various parts of the common; also a new guardhouse, a veterinary hospital, and, on the west side of the barracks, is a piece of water, where experiments with gun-boats are occasionally made. A new road from this quarter, towards Charlton, has been lately opened.

In addition to the public buildings already noticed, may be mentioned the marine barracks, an infirmary for the accommodation of marines requiring medical assistance, and a grand depôt for military stores; all of which have been erected within the last few years.

The whole military, as well as civil establishments at Woolwich, are under the immediate inspection of the master general and board of Ordnance.

On the 3d of July, 1559, Queen Elizabeth honoured this place with her presence at the launching of a fine ship, called, after her, the Elizabeth. In 1637, the Royal Sovereign was built in this dock, a ship which was the glory of the nation and the wonder of the world. She was of 1637 tons burden, besides tonnage, 128 feet long, and 48 broad; from the fore end of the beak head to the after end of the stern 152 feet, and from the bottom of the keel to the top of the lantern 76 feet. She had five lanterns, the largest of which would hold ten persons upright, three flush decks, a forecastle, half-deck, quarter-deck, and round house. The lower tier had 60 ports, the middle 30, the third 26, the forecastle twelve, half-deck 14, and as many more within, besides 10 pieces of chase ordnance forward, and 10 right aft, with many loopholes in the cabin for muskets, and 11 anchors, one of which weighed 4400 pounds. This royal ship was curiously carved and gilt, and the Dutch,

from the slaughter and havock her cannon made among them, gave her the name of the *Golden Devil;* a description of this ship was published by authority, at London, in quarto, in 1637, by T. Haywood, the celebrated actor, who was employed in forming the emblematical devices which adorned her.

The GRAVEL PITS at Woolwich have been for many years a common place for *simpling* among the apothecaries and druggists of London.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor, he confirmed the gift of Ethruda, King Alfred's niece, of the manor of Lewisham, and its appendages, to the abbey of St. Peter, of Ghent, in Flanders, made in 1044, *Wulewic* being mentioned in one of them, as belonging to that manor; but the succeeding grants relating to Lewisham manor make no mention of this place; and in the 7th of Edward I., the king was lord of Eltham and Woolwich.

The MANOR OF WOOLWICH, which is co-extensive with the parish, has for many years been esteemed a member of the manor of Eltham, though it holds a separate court, having a separate jury and homage. That it has been esteemed a member of that manor for some time is evident, from the survey taken, in 1649, by the trustees appointed by Parliament for the sale of the crown lands of the manor of Eltham, and its members, in which there is an account of quit-rents due to the lord of that manor from the several freeholders within the township of Woolwich.

Sir John Shaw having purchased a subsisting term of the manors of Eltham and Woolwich, Charles II., in consideration of his services, granted him, in 1663, *a new and longer term* of those premises, which was again renewed; and this manor, together with that of Eltham, passed into the possession of his great great grandson, Sir John Gregory Shaw, bart., as lessee under the crown, to whom this inheritance afterwards belonged.

A court-leet and court-baron is held annually for the manor of Woolwich, distinct from that of Eltham, and a jury and homage sworn and charged out of the residents and tenants within this manor.

There is an estate here, formerly called the MANOR OF SOUTHALL, otherwise Woolwich, as it once bore the reputa-

Drawn by H. Gastineau.

Engraved by J. Hinchliff.

WOOLWICH.

KENT.

tion of a manor, and was styled in the Fœdary books of this county, the *manor of Wulwiche*.

In the survey of Domesday it is described under the general title of the possessions of *Haimo, vicecomes*.

Gilbert de Marisco held it about the beginning of the reign of Edward I., and assumed the name of De Marisco, from the estate which he enjoyed in the marshes. He held this manor of Warren de Monchensi, baron of Swanscampe; and after him, Sabina de Windlesore possessed it about the 7th of Edward II., being held of the barony of Monchensi, which was again held of the king.

The next in succession to that female was John de Pulteney, who held it in the 20th year of the same reign, in a similar manner to that in which she had held it.

This Sir John de Pulteney, son of Adam, and Maud his wife, was a person of great account, having been four times lord mayor of London. He stood high in the favor of Edward III., and is noticed by our historians for his piety, wisdom, large possessions, and magnificent style of living.

Humphrey de Bohum, earl of Hereford, in the 21st year of that reign, conveyed to Sir John Pulteney, among other premises, his interest in the manor of Southall, in Woolwich. By the inquisition taken after his death, it appears that he died possessed of this manor, and that William de Pulteney was his son and heir. Margaret, his widow, survived him, and afterwards married Sir Nicholas Lovain.

Sir William de Pulteney, the son, by his deed, dated at Penshurst, in the 36th year of the same reign, granted to John bishop of Worcester, and others, in trust, this manor of Southall. Sir William de Pulteney died without issue in the 40th year of that reign, and left Robert de Pulteney, his kinsman, heir, who was ancestor of the late earl of Bath.

By two indentures, in the 48th year of that reign, John, son of William Revel, in pursuance of a trust, as it seems, created by the above-mentioned Sir William de Pulteney, confirmed this manor to Sir Nicholas Lovain, Aubrey de Vere, and others.

This family of Pulteney, which bore for its arms, *Argent, a fess dancettee, gules in chief, three leopards' faces, sable,* was succeeded in the possessions of this place, in the reign of Richard

II., by William Chichele, citizen and grocer, of London, third son of Thomas Chichele, by Agnes, daughter of William Pynchion, and youngest brother of Henry Chichele, archbishop of Canterbury. He was sheriff of London in 1409, and afterwards an alderman, and dying in the 4th of Henry VI., was interred in the parish of Higham Ferrers. He married Beatrice, daughter of William Barrett, esq., by whom he had two sons, William and John, and two daughters. The second son, John, who had this manor, was a citizen and chamberlain of London, and married Margery, daughter of Sir Thomas Knollys, and by her had twenty-four children, as mentioned before, of whom, Agnes, the eldest daughter, married John Tattersall, esq., who brought her husband this manor. Their son, John, afterwards possessed the same, and alienated it, in the reign of Edward IV., to a Boughton, of Burwash court, in the adjoining parish of Plumstead; in which family it remained till sold to one Heydon. His descendant, Sir Christopher Heydon, of Baconsthorp, in Norfolk, possessed it in the 15th of Queen Elizabeth, and alienated it to Sir Nicholas Gilbourne, of Charing, who was sheriff of Kent in the 9th of James I., and his descendant, Henry, possessed it at his death, A.D. 1681.

His heirs passed away this estate, about the year 1701, to Richard Bowater, descended from those of Warwick, at which time it was reputed a manor, and exempt from the royal manor of Woolwich; but on a hearing of this claim, in 1702, before the lord chief baron Ward, and the barons of the Exchequer, they decreed, that the royal manor of Eltham extended over all and every part of the parish of Woolwich. Upon this, Richard Bowater agreed, for himself and his heirs, to pay a yearly rent to that manor for this estate, of which his descendant, John Bowater, was possessed in 1777; they bore for their arms, *Argent, an escutcheon, sable, within an orle of martlets, gules.*

The manor of Jeffrys, in this parish, in the beginning of the reign of Elizabeth, was in the possession of Henry Cheney, and then held *in capite.*

Henry VIII., in his 31st year, granted to Martin Bowes a large messuage in Wolwyche, to hold *in capite.*

Sir Edward Boughton, in the 37th of Henry VIII., conveyed to that king two parcels of land, called Bowton's Docks, and two parcels called Our Lady hill and Sand hill, in this parish.

The monastery of Stratford Langthorne, in the parish of Ham, in Essex, was possessed of lands in this parish, (lying, most probably, contiguous to their mansion, in that part of the county of Kent which lies on the *Essex side* of the Thames,) called Wiklands, the tenths of which were given, in 1155, by William, son of Henry de Eltham, to the monastery of Bermondsey, in Southwark.

After the dissolution of the monastery of Stratford Langthorne, Henry VIII., in his 32d year, granted these pastures, called Wykland, containing fifty acres, in Wolwych, to Roger Chomley, to hold *in capite*.

It appears by the rolls of the 25th of Elizabeth, that Francis Bacon possessed much of this part of Woolwich adjoining Essex, lying in Woolwich in Kent, and in East and West Ham in Essex.

There was a family of some account settled in this parish, about the latter end of the reign of Elizabeth, of the name of Barnes, or Barne, one of whom, Sir William, was a justice of the peace in 1596, at which time, observes Mr. Lambarde, persons only of the highest reputation were in the commission of that office. He married Dorothy, daughter of Sir Peter Manwood, of St. Stephens, near Canterbury, knight of the Bath, and bore for his arms, *Azure, three leopards' faces, argent.*

This parish is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Dartford. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, was given, with the whole tithes, to St. Andrew Gundulph, bishop of Rochester, and the monks there, by Henry I.; and he afterwards, by charter, confirmed them in the possession of the same.

Bishop Gundulph, after having separated his own maintenance from that of the monks, assigned them this church, among others, for their support, and granted also the free disposition of the vicarage. The church was confirmed to the priory of Rochester by archbishop Anselm, as well as Henry II. Bishop Gilbert de Glanville, in the reign of Richard I., under pretence that his predecessor had impoverished the see by too large donations to the priory, divested them of all right and title to the same; he, however, reserved and confirmed to them their ancient and accustomed pension of 7s., yearly, to be

received out of the profits arising from the same; which was confirmed by several of the succeeding bishops of Rochester.

The feast of the dedication of this parish church having been for a long time held on the vigil or eve of St. Laurence, which happened in the autumn, to be a day of fasting and abstinence, it could not be celebrated with the requisite reverence, and in consequence, John Langdon, bishop of Rochester, transferred the feast to the 5th of October; since which, the patronage of this church has continued part of the possessions of the bishopric of Rochester.

At the dissolution of the priory, under Henry VIII., the pension of 7s. from the church of Woolwich passed, with the rest of the revenues of the priory of St. Andrew's, into the hands of the king, who, the ensuing year, settled it on his new erected dean and chapter of Rochester. The church was anciently valued at ten marks, and afterwards estimated in the king's books at £7 12 6, the yearly tenths being 15s. 3d.

By the *Commission of Inquiry*, it was returned that Woolwich was a parsonage, worth £55 per annum. William Preve, rector, who died in 1464, built the chapel and bell tower to this church, and proved, besides, a great benefactor to the same.

This church falling to decay, and being much too small to contain the inhabitants attending divine service, they obtained of Queen Anne her letters patent, by virtue of which, the sum of £1141 11 3 was collected from charitable contributions, for repairing the same; and Dr. Lindsay, lord primate of Ireland, gave £380 14 8 for a similar purpose. It being, however, found, upon a survey, that the edifice was incapable of reparation, or being sufficiently enlarged to answer the above purposes, the inhabitants determined that the fabric should be rebuilt, and in 1726, a piece of ground was purchased for the site of a new church. As the parishioners themselves were unable to raise a sufficient sum of money towards its completion, an Act was passed in the 5th of George II. for rebuilding this church, as one of the fifty new structures directed to be raised by the two Acts of Queen Anne; when it was ordered, that the sum of £3000 should be paid out of the funds appropriated by those Acts. In the 12th year of the same reign, another Act passed for applying a sum of money, given by the will of Daniel

Wiseman, esq., for finishing the new church at Woolwich, and accordingly, a *new edifice* was raised, which stands on an eminence above the town. It is a handsome brick building, ornamented with stone, having a square tower or steeple at the west end, with a good peal of bells.

In this church, on the *south side of the chancel*, is a handsome monument for Daniel Wiseman, esq., above mentioned as a liberal benefactor, who lies interred in this church yard, obiit 1739, ætat. sixty-five; there are no other sepulchral memorials worthy of record.

Among the charitable institutions at this place, are an almshouse and two schools. The former was founded for five poor widows, previous to the year 1562, by Sir Martin Bowes, and endowed with lands and tenements, which now yield to this charity about £25 yearly, besides coals and some other articles. The latter was built and endowed from a bequest made by Mrs. Anne Withers, in 1758, of £100 in money, and £1100 old South Sea annuities, for the purpose of teaching thirty poor girls to read and work with the needle. The other school was founded under the will of Mrs. Mary Wiseman, who, in 1758, left £1000 old South Sea annuities, for the educating, clothing, and apprenticing, six poor orphan boys, sons of shipwrights who have served their apprenticeship in the Dockyard. The original endowment has been augmented, by vesting some part of the interest in the funds, so that there are now eight boys in this establishment.

In 1821 there were 2520 dwellings in the parish of Woolwich; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 7606, females 9402, making a total of 17,008 souls.

Charlton lies on the banks of the Thames, and was anciently written *Ceorletone*, that is, *the town of husbandmen; Ceorl*, in Saxon, signifying an *husbandman*, or Churl, as it was termed in *old* English. It is usually called *Charlton near Greenwich*, to distinguish it from the other parish of the same name near Dover.

Charlton is a pleasant well-built village; and about two miles distant from Woolwich is Charlton house, late the resi-

dence of lady Wilson, and, we believe, now of Robert Foote, esq. It was erected in the reign of James I., and forms an oblong square, with projections at the end of each front, crowned by turrets, and an open balustrade, extending round the summit of the whole. The centre also projects, and the entrance is ornamented by Corinthian columns. The interior of the house displays some curious particulars of ancient decorations; in a room adjoining the saloon is a chimney-piece, with a slab of black marble, so exquisitely polished, that lord Downe is said to have seen reflected thereon a robbery committed on Blackheath; and the tradition adds, that he sent out his servants, who apprehended the thieves. The gallery is a handsome and spacious apartment, containing some good paintings, chiefly portraits, as also a large and valuable collection of natural history, collected by the late lady Wilson, consisting of insects, minerals, extraneous fossils, and other subjects. The park and pleasure grounds comprise about seventy acres. On the edge of the hill, a small distance from the church, were formerly some houses, one of which belonged to the late governor Hunter; and another was erected by Robert lord Romney. One of these mansions, adjoining the churchyard, belonged to the late Joseph Kirke, esq., and afterwards to James Browne, esq., on whose death, in 1787, it became the property of Francis Macullock, James Brown Bonner, esq., and Susanna, the wife of Robert Thompson, as a demise; from them it became the residence of lord Arden, and afterwards of the earl of Cholmondeley, who pulled down the residence, and erected another at the western extremity of Hanging wood. Through the latter is a pleasant walk to Woolwich, and at the farther end, a very large and deep *sand pit*, wherein the first stratum is gravel, which varies, according to the surface of the ground, from five or six to about fifteen feet deep; beneath, are various strata of clay, gravel, loam, and marle, running parallel, being, altogether, between thirty and forty feet, which cover a bed of sand forty-three feet in depth. In the stratum of marle are found a prodigious quantity of extraneous fossils. This vein is about six or eight feet thick, and the shells are so numerous, that, as Woodward justly observes, the mass is almost composed of them, there being only a little marle interspersed. These shells consist of a great variety of univalves and bivalves; they are very brittle, and

Drawn by Geo. Shepherd.

EAST COWES, NEAR CHARLTON, [illegible]

THE SEAT OF ELEANOR AGNES, COUNTESS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

resemble those found at Tours, in France, and Hordwell Cliff, in Hampshire, some being impregnated with mundic.

The marshes, at the extremity of which is the Thames, bound the north-west of this parish; the village is on the upland, nearly in the centre, having the church at the east end. Charlton common joins the high London road, to Shooters hill, on the other side of which, still farther southward, is the hamlet of Kidbrook.

The market, granted by Henry III., as well as a fair, was mentioned by Philipott, in 1659, as not long discontinued, but the fair, he adds, had been long given up. In the room of the latter, there is a fair held at this place annually, on St. Luke's day, October 18, called *Horn fair*, at which are sold rams' horns, and all sorts of toys made of horn. This fair is composed of a riotous mob of people, who, after a printed summons, sent through the several towns and country round about, meet at *Cuckold's point*, near Deptford, and march thence, in procession, through that town and Greenwich, to Charlton, with horns, of various kinds, upon their heads. This assembly was formerly infamous for rudeness and obscenity, but is now kept in order by the constables. Of this *fair*, vulgar tradition records the following origin: that King John, or some other of our monarchs, being at the palace of Eltham, and having been out upon a hunting party, rambled from his company to this place, then a mean hamlet, when, entering a hovel, he was struck with the beauty of its mistress, whom he found alone. The husband suddenly returning, surprised them together, and threatening to kill them both, the king was obliged to discover himself, and compound for their safety by a purse of gold, and a grant of the land from this place to Cuckold's point, besides making the husband master of that part of the hamlet. It is added that, in memory of this grant, and the occasion of it, a fair was established for the sale of *horns*, and all sorts of goods made of that material. A sermon is preached at Charlton church, on the fair day.

East Combe, near Charlton, is occupied by the countess of Buckingham; it was erected, some twenty years ago, by Mr. Hunter, of whom it was purchased by her ladyship. The dwelling is a handsome commodious edifice, commanding the most enchanting prospect possible.

Between Eastcombe and Westcombe, on the right of the road, is Woodlands, the beautiful seat of John Julius Angerstein, who laid out the grounds, and erected the mansion about the year 1772. The house is a handsome structure, elegantly fitted up, and contains a small but well chosen collection of pictures. Among them is the celebrated portrait, by Sir Joshua Reynolds, of Garrick, between tragedy and comedy; the Venus and a boy piping, by the same artist; a beautiful landscape, by Cuyp; and a fine painting of Rubens, by Vandyck. The grounds are remarkably pleasant, and the prospect thence of the river and adjacent parts of Essex and Kent, very fine. The *Botanic garden* is said to contain one of the most extensive collection of curious plants and heaths in the kingdom.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor, this place was esteemed as *two manors*, and granted, after the Conquest, by King William, to Odo bishop of Bayeux; under the general title of whose lands it was entered in the record of Domesday.

This place afterwards passed into the possession of Robert Bloett, bishop of London, the king's chancellor, and was given by him, in the 6th of William Rufus, to the monastery of St. Saviour, of Bermondsey, near Southwark. Henry III., in his 53d year, granted to the prior of Bermondsey, a market, to be held at this manor weekly, and a fair, for three days, annually; in which situation it remained till the reign of Henry VIII., when being surrendered to the king, this manor devolved to the crown, by the Act passed in the 31st year of that reign.

Queen Mary, in her 5th year, granted this manor to Thomas White, Roger Martyn, and William Blackwell, to hold, with other premises, *in capite*, by the service of a fortieth part of a knight's fee, and was afterwards granted by Elizabeth, in her 5th year, to lady Anne Parre. King James I. granted it to Sir Adam Newton, bart., and tutor to Prince Henry, prince of Wales, his eldest son, who built a noble manor-house, in the Gothic style. He died in 1629, having married Catherine, daughter of Sir John Puckering, lord keeper, by whom he left one son, Henry, his successor in title and estate. He bore for his arms, two coats quarterly, first and fourth, *Azure, two ostrich feathers, in saltier*, (being an augmentation, as servant to the prince of Wales,) *between three boars' heads couped, argent*,

langued and tusked, or, by the name of Newton; second and third, *sable, a bend, fusile cotised, argent,* by the name of Puckering.

Sir Henry Newton, bart., on the death of his uncle, Sir Thomas Puckering, bart., in 1636, and of Jane, his only daughter, (who was, against her will, seized upon in Greenwich park, and carried to Dunkirk, by one Joseph Welsh, who reported she was married to him, but died without issue,) became, by deed of settlement, heir to a good estate, in Warwickshire and elsewhere, who removed to his uncle's seat, the priory, at Warwick, and took the name of Puckering, being afterwards styled Sir Henry Puckering, bart., otherwise Newton. He was a great royalist, and consequently suffered much by sequestration and other oppressions, insomuch that he was compelled to sell this manor to Sir William Ducie, bart. of Tortworth, in Gloucestershire, second son of Sir Robert Ducie, bart. and alderman of London.

Sir William Ducie, bart. was one of the knights of the Bath at the coronation of Charles II., by whom he was created viscount Downe, of the kingdom of Ireland. He died without issue, at his manor-house here, in 1697, and was interred at Tortworth, above mentioned. His executors sold this manor to Sir William Langhorne, bart., an East India merchant, who died without issue in 1714, and lies buried in this church. On his death, it went to his nephew and heir, Sir John Conyers, bart., son of Sir Christopher Conyers, bart., by his first wife, Elizabeth, eldest daughter of William Langhorn, of London, and sister of Sir William, before mentioned. He bore for his arms, *Sable, a cross, argent, on a chief of the second, three bugle horns sable, stringed gules.*

This family was originally written *Coigners,* so called from a place of that name in France; Roger de Coigners arrived in England towards the end of the reign of William the Conqueror, to whom the bishop of Durham (William de Kaerlepho,) abbot of St. Vincent, in Normandy, gave the constableship of Durham.

His grandson, Sir John Conyers, bart., son of Sir Baldwin, dying without issue male, the manor of Charlton went by entail, first, to William Langhorne Games, who dying likewise without issue male, it then passed to the Rev. John Maryon,

of Essex, who left it by will to his sister, Mrs. Margaretta Maria Maryon, in tail general. She carried it in marriage, first, to John Badger Weller, esq. of Hornchurch, in Essex, by whom she had an only daughter, Margaretta Elizabeth, and on his death, she married John Jones, esq., who in her right was possessed of it; but after her death, it became vested in her daughter, by her first husband, married to Sir Thomas Spencer Wilson, bart., of East Bourne, in Sussex, late one of the members for that county.

The manor-house, built by Sir Adam Newton, before mentioned, stands at the entrance of the village; before the court-yard of which is a long row of cypress trees that seem of great antiquity, being perhaps the oldest in England.

Wricklesmarsh lies adjoining the southern side of Blackheath, and in early times was of some account, as appears by the survey of Domesday, in which it is mentioned as having been, in the time of Edward the Confessor, in the possession of one Anschil. At the period of the survey, A.D. 1080, it was part of the possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was accordingly entered in the record of Domesday.

After that period for a length of time, we find no mention of this estate, which was next vested in the family of the Vere's, earls of Oxford, one of whom, Robert Vere, third son of John earl of Oxford, died at his house, at Wricklesmarsh, in 1598, and was buried in this church. After his demise, it passed into the possession of Sir William Garway, of London, who conveyed it to his son in law, Edward Blount, esq. of the Middle Temple, London, who died holding the property in 1617, and was interred in this church. His pedigree is in the *heraldic visitation* of Kent, taken in 1619, wherein he stands recorded as a descendant of a Shropshire family.

At the latter end of the last century, this property was in the possession of Sir John Morden, bart., founder of Morden college, who dying in 1708, was buried in the chapel of his own college. By his will, he left his mansion-house, called Wricklesmarsh, with its appurtenances, and as many acres of land adjoining as amounted to the yearly value of £100, to his wife, dame Susan Morden, for life, and afterwards, according to the disposition of the property in his will. Accordingly,

soon after lady Morden's death, in 1721, it was sold to Sir Gregory Page, bart., of Greenwich, who erected a noble and magnificent edifice of stone, in the modern taste, being one of the finest seats in England, belonging to a private gentleman, and much admired for its charming situation and excellent air. It stood in the midst of the park, with a large piece of water in front, on a beautiful rise, about a quarter of a mile from the heath, which from the pales of the park again rises to the London road, running parallel with it at the same distance.

Sir Gregory Page was the son of Sir Gregory Page, bart. of Greenwich, who was advanced to that title, December 3, in the 1st of George I. Sir Gregory, the father, married Mary, daughter of Mr. Thomas Trotman, of London, and died in 1720, leaving two sons, Sir Gregory, his successor in title, and Thomas Page, esq. of Battesden, in Bedfordshire, who left no issue; and two daughters, the eldest of whom, Mary, married Sir Edward Turner, bart. of Ambrosden, in Oxfordshire. By him she had one son, Edward; and her youngest daughter, Sophia, was the first wife of Lewis Way, esq. of Richmond, by whom she had Benjamin Way, esq. of Denham, in Buckinghamshire; lady Page died in 1729, and was interred in a vault in Bunhill fields.

Sir Gregory Page, the son, married Martha, third daughter of Robert Kenward, esq. of Yalding, who died in 1767, without issue, as did Sir Gregory, in 1775, who was buried, according to his will, in the family vault, at East Greenwich, to the poor of which parish he left a large benefaction, as well as other considerable legacies in charities elsewhere; he bore for his arms, *Azure, a fess indented, between three martlets, or.* By his will he devised this seat, as well as the rest of his estate in this county, to his great nephew, Sir Gregory Turner, of Ambrosden, in Oxfordshire, in tail male, who afterwards assumed the name of Page. This family of the Turner's was originally of Leicestershire; one of whom, Edward Turner, esq., was made a baronet in the 7th of George II., leaving by Mary, one of the sisters of the late Sir Gregory Page, as above mentioned, a son, Edward, who succeeded him in title and estate, and two daughters, Elizabeth, afterwards dowager viscountess Say and Sele, and Cassandra, married to Edward lord

Hawke. Sir Edward, the son, married Cassandra, daughter of William Leigh, esq. of Adlestrop, in Gloucestershire, by whom he had Sir Gregory Turner Page, bart., with two other sons, and two daughters. This estate having thus passed into the possession, of Sir Gregory Turner Page, bart., he obtained an Act of Parliament, in 1781, for the sale of the estates of Sir Gregory Page, bart., and in consequence, the mansion, in 1783, with the park and adjoining enclosures, were sold, for £22,550, to John Cator, esq. of Beckenham, who nearly pulled it down. He also dismantled the park, and sold it, in portions, to different persons, who have built a number of genteel mansions on the north-west verge of the property, near the road, in the direction of Lee and Eltham.

Morden college stands adjoining Blackheath, a little to the eastward of Sir Gregory Turner's late park, and was so named from its founder, Sir John Morden, of Wricklesmarsh, before mentioned, a Turkey merchant, who amassed a large fortune at Aleppo. Several years previous to his death, he erected this building in form of a college, not far from his own habitation, for the support of poor honest decayed merchants, for whose relief there had previously existed no institution of the kind; and this college may now, from its situation and ample endowment, be said to rank one of the most comfortable retreats, for the aged and unfortunate, that any charity affords in this kingdom. The college consists of a large brick building, with two small wings, strengthened at the corners with stone, having an inward square, surrounded with piazzas, and a chapel and burial-place adjoining, for the members of the college. The founder, according to the tenor of his will, was buried in a vault within this chapel, under the altar.

Sir John Morden died in 1708, and by his testamentary paper, in 1702, and a codicil, subsequently executed, endowed this college, after his lady's decease, with a considerable real, copyhold, and personal estate, to the value of about £1300 per annum.

The founder of this most munificent charity placed therein twelve decayed merchants during his life, but after his decease, lady Morden finding the share allotted her by her husband's will was insufficient for her decent support, some parts of the estate not answering so well as had been expected, she was

Drawn by T. M. Baynes.

Engraved by J. Rogers

MORDEN COLLEGE.

BLACKHEATH

KENT

obliged to reduce the number to four. On that lady's death, in 1721, the whole estate devolving to the college, the number of inmates was again increased, so that there have been, at times, thirty poor gentlemen dependent on this institution, and the number not being limited, it is intended to be increased according to the proceeds of the estate, as the building will conveniently hold forty.

Sir John Morden appointed, by his will, lady Morden his executrix, and three others, Turkey merchants, trustees of the estate, settled for this purpose, who were to be sole managers and visitors of this college, as they should see occasion. The first trustees, upon the decease of any of the others, were to choose and nominate successors, to the number of seven, all to be Turkey merchants; and if at any time, thenceforth, there should be a failure in the Turkey company, then the election was to be made out of the East India Company, of which the founder was also a member.

Seven Turkey merchants afterwards had the direction of this college and the nomination of the persons admitted into the establishment.

The pensioners have each £20 a year, and at first, wore gowns with the badge of the founder, but this has long been discontinued. They have a common table, where they take their meals together; and each has a convenient apartment, with a cellar; the treasurer, chaplain, and pensioners being obliged to reside in the college, nor can a pensioner be admitted who does not bring a certificate, to prove that he is upwards of fifty years of age.

In 1771, an Act passed to compromise the disputes between the king and the trustees of this college, concerning the property of Maidenstone hill, in Greenwich, claimed by them, but given up, as belonging to the royal manor of Greenwich; in which Act there is a clause to increase the salaries of the treasurer and chaplain of the hospital, not exceeding £50 per annum, and the pension of each poor merchant, not exceeding £40, notwithstanding Sir John Morden's will had limited the treasurer's salary to £40, the chaplain's to £30, and that of each pensioner to £20, which, by a codicil, was reduced to £15.

Sir Gregory Page, who died in 1775, devised, by his will,

£300, towards the repairing and ornamenting the chapel of this college.

The marshes in this parish, called Charlton level, contain 145 acres, the whole of which belonged to Sir Henry Puckering, bart., excepting twenty-two acres, which were the property of the dean and chapter of Westminster and Henry Gilbourne, esq., the whole being within that *commission of sewers* which extends from Lumbard's wall down to Gravesend bridge, in this county.

CHARLTON is in the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Dartford. The church of Charlton (*Cerlentone*) was anciently valued at 100s. By the *Commission of Inquiry*, taken in 1750, it was returned, that Charlton was a parsonage, with a house and glebe land, worth £90 per annum. This church was valued in the king's books at £10 7 8½, the yearly tenths being £1 0 9½.

The church is dedicated to St. Luke, and seems to have been surrendered to the crown with the manor of Charlton, and the rest of the possessions of the monastery of St. Saviour's, Bermondsey, at the dissolution, under Henry VIII., and remained vested in the crown till James I. granted it, with the manor, to Sir Adam Newton, whose intention it was to have enlarged and beautified this edifice. As he died, however, before having accomplished his intention, he left it to be fulfilled by his trustees, who most amply discharged that trust, having re-erected the greater part of the fabric, and raised a new steeple from the ground, decorating the same so elegantly, within and without, that when finished, it surpassed, in beauty, most churches in the county.

The patronage continued in the possessors of the manor of Charlton till Sir William Langhorn gave it, at his death, in 1714, to Robert Warren, then rector, who sold it to Thomas Chamberlaine. His son, of the same name, as well as his father, were successively rectors of this church, and died possessed of the advowson in 1789, on which, it became vested in his widow Mrs. Chamberlain, and Mr. Maule, as his executors, who became entitled to the same.

In the 12th of Queen Anne, an Act was passed for the exchange of the parsonage house, and close adjoining, in lieu of another dwelling and lands there.

In this church, among others, are the following monuments and memorials: a tomb, at the west end of the aisle, for John Griffiths, esq., brigadier, obiit 1713, who had married the widow of William Hatton, esq. of Lincolnshire. A small stone, near the font, for lady Charlotte Percival; and in the chancel, a memento for Thomas Beardmore. On the south side of the altar, is a superb monument, with the figure of a man in armour, as large as life, holding a truncheon in his right hand, the whole decorated with trophies, being for the honourable brigadier Michael Richards, surveyor general of the Ordnance, obiit 1721, which tomb was erected by his three nieces, daughters of James Craggs, esq. Near the above, is a brass plate in the wall for George Segar, gent., 1594. On an ancient stone, adjoining the latter, fixed in the wall, are these arms, *party per fess embattled, three demi griffins impaling a chevron charged with an amulet,* for difference, *between three martlets;* over all, on an escutcheon of pretence, *a cross moline between four mullets, argent;* and at each corner of the stone, are shields of the same arms in small.

Over the vestry door is a monument for Elizabeth, wife of James Craggs; and near the small door, on the south side, a memento for Robert Vere, esq., third son of the earl of Oxford. In the north chancel, stands an elegant monument, with the bust of a female, and an inscription, being for Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Thompson, of Kirby hall, in Yorkshire. On a brass plate, a tomb for Edward Blount, of the Middle Temple, London; on the north side, a stately monument for lady Catherine Puckering, youngest daughter of Sir John Puckering, and wife of Sir Adam Newton, bart.; and adjoining, a sumptuous tomb for viscountess Ardmagh, second daughter of John earl of Rutland. The several windows are filled with coats of arms, in stained glass, of the Puckering's, the Newton's, the Blounts, and their marriages.

In the east window were the representatives of Moses and Aaron, with the two tables, but the heads of the figures only are remaining; beneath, are the arms of the see of Rochester impaled, first and fourth, quarterly, *per bend, indented argent and sable, two fleurs de lis, or;* second and third, *vert, a cross ingrailed, argent;* and at the bottom, an inscription, purporting that the window in question was glazed at the charge of James

Newton, uncle to Sir Henry Puckering Newton, bart., obiit 1639.

Henry Oldenburgh, a man of some note in the annals of literature, fellow and secretary of the Royal Society at its first foundation, died at Charlton in 1678, and was buried in this church; as was Edward viscount Coke, son of Thomas earl of Leicester, who died at Greenwich, in 1753.

In 1821 there were 394 dwellings in the parish of Charlton; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 710, females 916, making a total of 1626 souls.

The Liberty of Kidbrooke, usually so called, lies adjoining to Charlton, on the south side of the London road, a small distance from Blackheath. It was anciently written *Cicebroc*, and once a parish of itself, though now esteemed as an appendage to that of Charlton, having one overseer of the poor appointed for it.

Cecilia countess of Hereford, daughter of Pain Fitz-John, and wife of Mills Fitz-Walter, earl of Hereford, gave all her land of *Ketebrook*, with the advowson of the church of the parish, and all other its appurtenances, to the prior and canons of St. Mary's (Overies), of *Sudwerc*; which grant was confirmed by King John, in his 8th year, and again by Henry VI., by *inspeximus*, in his 19th year.

At the dissolution of this monastery, in the 30th of Henry VIII., the manor of Kidbrook, with the demesne lands, and premises above mentioned, became part of the royal revenues, and was confirmed to that king and his heirs by the general words of the Act passed in the 31st year of his reign, for that purpose.

Queen Elizabeth granted a lease of the site of the manor, the rectory, and parcel of the manor woods, (she having accorded part of them to Thomas French,) to Bryan Annesley, of the adjoining parish of Lee, grandson of Bryan, who was the second son of William Annesley, esq., of Rodington, in Nottinghamshire, ancestor to the earls of Anglesea and viscount Valentia, by Robert Annesley, his fourth son, a younger brother of Bryan, last mentioned. But the fee of this estate

remained in the crown till James I. granted it to Sir William Garway, of London, by whom it was soon afterwards conveyed to his son-in-law, Edward Blount, esq. of Wricklesmarsh, who sold the fee simple, (the above lease still subsisting,) to Bryan Annesley, esq. He left three daughters his coheirs; Christian, married to William lord Sandys, of the Vine, Southampton; Grace, to Sir John Wildgoose, of Iridge court, in Sussex; and Cordelia, to Sir William Hervey, who conveyed this estate to her husband, as part of her inheritance.

The surname of Hervey, or Harvey, anciently written Fitzhervey, is supposed to have been derived from Robert Fitzhervey, younger son of Harvey duke of Orleans, who is recorded among those commanders that accompanied William the Conqueror to this kingdom in 1066.

Sir William Hervey, of Kidbrooke, above mentioned, (from whose eldest brother, John, of Ickworth, were descended the earls of Bristol,) was son of Henry, eldest son of Nicholas Hervey. Having first signalized himself at the memorable engagement of the Spanish Armada, in 1588, he was knighted, with many other persons of note. After that event, he eminently displayed his prowess on several occasions, and was created a baronet in the 17th of King James; the following year raised to the peerage of Ireland, by the title of baron Hervey, of Ross, in the county of Wexford; and lastly, on account of his eminent services both at home and abroad, in the 3d of Charles I., made baron of this realm, by the title of lord Hervey, of Kidbrooke, in Kent. He married, first, Mary, relict of Henry Wriothesley, earl of Southampton, by whom he had no issue; secondly, Cordelia, daughter and heir of Bryan Annesley, esq., as before mentioned, by whom he had three sons, who died before him, all without issue, and three daughters, of whom, only Elizabeth survived him, and became his sole heir. She married John Hervey, esq. of Ickworth, who, on the death of William lord Hervey, in 1642, became, in right of his wife, entitled to Kidbrooke, from whom it passed, by sale, to Edward lord Montague, of Boughton, in Northamptonshire, son of Sir Edward Montague, who was created lord Montague, baron of Boughton, by letters patent, in the 19th of James I.

The surname of this family was anciently written, in Latin,

De Monte-acuto, and in old English, *Montacute*, as is evident, not only from Domesday record, but other ancient deeds.

Drogo de Monteacuto was one of those noble warriors who came over with William of Normandy in the retinue of Robert earl of Morton, half brother to the Conqueror, as appears by the possessions he held under that great earl at the period of the general survey. From him, through a long train of illustrious ancestors, paternally and maternally, from the Bruces's, kings of Scotland, descended Edward lord Montague, possessor of Kidbrooke, who died in 1683, and was succeeded in title and estate by his second and only surviving son, Ralph lord Montague, who, for his eminent abilities, was created viscount Monthermer and earl of Montague, in 1689, and marquis of Monthermer and duke of Montague, by Queen Anne, in her 4th year, A.D. 1705. The duke bore for his arms those of Montague and Monthermer, quarterly; he died in 1709, when his only surviving son, John, succeeded him, and, in 1717, procured an Act of Parliament to vest the manor of Kidbrooke, the capital messuage there, the site of the manor, with all its appurtenances, and the rectory or parsonage of Kidbrooke, and all the houses, glebe lands, and tithes, belonging to the same, in trustees, to be sold, towards the payment of debts. He soon passed away this manor and rectory, with the rest of the premises, as above mentioned, to James Craggs, senior, esq., joint postmaster-general, on whose death, in 1721, without issue male, James Craggs, esq., one of the principal secretaries of state, having died before him, this manor descended to his three daughters and coheirs; Anne, first married to John Newsham, by whom she had one son, secondly, to John Knight, esq. of Essex, and thirdly, in 1736, to Robert Nugent, of Gosfield hall, in that county, afterwards created viscount Clare, and earl Nugent, of the kingdom of Ireland; Elizabeth, in 1718, married to Edward Eliot, esq. of Cornwall; and Margaret, who first espoused Samuel Trefusis, esq. of Trefusis, in Cornwall, by whom she had no issue, and secondly, to Sir John Hind Cotton, bart., by whom she had only one daughter, who died young, and on her decease, in 1734, she left her *third part* of this estate to her two sisters. The family of the Cragg's bore for their arms, *Sable on a bend, or, three crosslets of the field between three mullets, ermine.*

In 1756, Anne, wife of Robert Nugent, esq., died, and being a *femme covert*, by deed of appointment, vested her moiety in trustees, for different uses, with remainder to the Hon. Robert Nugent, her husband, in tail. Mrs. Eliot, on her death, in 1765, bequeathed her interest therein to trustees, to pay divers sums out of the annual profits, with remainder, after the death of her nephew, James Newsham, only son of her eldest sister, Anne, who had taken the name of Craggs, to his issue, with remainder to her son and his issue.

James Newsham Craggs, esq. married the eldest daughter of Henry lord Teynham, and died without issue, at Lisle, in Flanders, in 1769, on which the manor and rectory of Kidbrooke passed, by virtue of the above entail, to Robert Nugent, before mentioned, afterwards earl Nugent. He took the name of Craggs; and Edward, son of Edward Eliot, esq., by Elizabeth Craggs, his wife, was created, in 1784, a baron of this realm, by the title of lord Eliot, of Port Eliot, in Cornwall; earl Nugent died in 1788. By the settlements above mentioned, this estate then became wholly vested in Edward lord Eliot, who afterwards took the name of Craggs; his lordship is descended from a family long resident in Devonshire and Cornwall. He married Catherine, sole daughter of Edward Ellison, esq. of Southweald, in Essex, by whom he had issue Edward James, who married Harriet, sister of the earl of Chatham, John and William; he bore for his arms, *Argent, a fess between four cotizes, wavy gules.*

The church of Kidbrooke, called, in the *Textus Roffensis*, the chapel of *Chitebroc*, was anciently valued at 100s., the patronage having been, from the earliest times, annexed to the manor, an account of the possessors of which has been already given. This church being vacant, was, upon the petition of the prior and convent of St. Mary, Southwark, appropriated to it by John Langdon, bishop of Rochester, with the king's licence, in the 5th of Henry VI., the bishop reserving to himself and his successors the annual pension of 2s.; which was confirmed by John Lowe, bishop of Rochester, in 1459.

This church has been entirely demolished for many years, for the vicarage not being endowed, it was neglected, and as the inhabitants were unable to repair it, the building soon became ruinous, so that they have, for many years, resorted to

Charlton church, to which it became annexed by composition.

In 1821 there were seven dwellings in the parish of Kidbrooke; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 39, females 34, making a total of 73 souls.

Greenwich lies next to Deptford, eastward, on the bank of the Thames, Blackheath being situated on the upper or southern side. It was called, in Latin, *Grenovicum viridis sinus a viridariis*, in Saxon, *Grenawic*, that is, the green town or dwelling upon the bank of the river, which last syllable is now corrupted into *wich;* and in ancient evidences it was called East Greenwich, to distinguish it from Deptford, which was called West Greenwich.

It was not so famous formerly for its buildings, being only a fishing town as late as the reign of Henry V., as for the safe road which the river afforded for the shipping at this spot, where the whole Danish fleet, in the time of King Ethelred, lay for three or four years together; while the army was, for the most part, encamped on the hill above the town, now called Blackheath.

During the period in question, A.D. 1011, they ravaged the whole county, and having sacked and destroyed the city of Canterbury, brought from thence archbishop Alphege to their camp, where they slew him, because he could not raise the sum they demanded for his ransom. From this Danish camp several places in this parish are still called, *combes, comb,* as well as *comp*, in Saxon, signifying a camp, for they used both words; the former having been, most probably, the Saxon appellation, and the latter the Danish, or corrupt Saxon.

On *Blackheath*, and within the walls of Greenwich park, are several barrows, or *tumuli*, many of which are supposed to be the burial-places of some of the Danes, who died during their encampment here.

The town of Greenwich joins that of Deptford, westward; it is built chiefly on the bank of the Thames, which is here extremely broad, and the channel deep, and at some high tides the water is rather salt, but in general very sweet and fresh.

Great part of this town joins the northern side of the park, but the contiguous buildings on the two avenues leading to Blackheath, called Crooms, or Coomes hill, on the western, and Maize hill, with Vanbrughs field, on the eastern part, now extend it quite up to that heath, towards the south, the park intervening and filling up the space between.

Greenwich, in 1753, is supposed to have contained about 2000 houses, and was thought to be one of the most genteel and pleasant towns in England, many of its inhabitants being persons of rank and fortune. The dryness and salubrity of the soil and air, the convenience of the park, the general pleasant situation of the adjoining country, and its approximation to the metropolis, contribute to render it, at the present period, a most desirable residence for people of fashion and fortune.

It has two weekly markets, granted, in 1737, to the governors of the Royal Hospital, for the benefit of the charity, and an annual fair, now kept in the park, which is a most delightful spot of ground, extending as far as Blackheath; it was enlarged, planted, and walled round, by Charles II., well stocked with deer, and contains perhaps as much variety within its precincts as any park in the kingdom; the views thence being particularly beautiful.

The ranger, who is generally, as at present, one of the royal family, has a handsome mansion, formerly called the Queen's, or House of Delight, the park containing about 188 acres, which is still vested in the crown. The trees are in full maturity of growth, the ground rising considerably towards the south-east, where a high brick wall separates it from Blackheath. The view from *One Tree hill*, on a clear day, and early in the morning, is truly picturesque. It has been the theme of poets, and employed the pencil of the artist; the elegant building of the hospital, the course of the majestic Thames, with the shipping, its opposite shore, extensive docks, combined with proud London, and her "cloud capp'd towers," form a *tout ensemble* not to be surpassed. In 1734, several ancient barrows were opened in Greenwich park, and, among the articles found, were spear heads, knives, human bones, fragments of woollen cloth, remnants of iron, and broad-headed nails, with decayed wood adhering to them.

The Royal Observatory, so justly celebrated, was founded

by Charles II., Flamsted having commenced his observations in 1676, with a sextant of six feet radius, of his own construction, for the express purpose of ascertaining the motions of the moon, and the position of the fixed stars, in order to discover the longitude at sea. Upon the death of that astronomer, he was succeeded by Halley, whose works must ever continue to preserve his name. Great improvements have been made from time to time in the astronomical apparatus; Graham constructed a mural quadrant of eight feet radius, and in 1750, under the direction of Dr. Bradley, then astronomer royal, a transit instrument of eight feet in length, a moveable quadrant of forty inches radius, with an astronomical clock, and a Newtonian reflecting telescope, were added to the former instruments. Bliss succeeded Dr. Bradley, but held the situation only two years, when the ingenious Dr. Maskelyn was appointed, who furnished the Observatory with an achromatic telescope of forty-six inches focal length, with a treble object glass, and an improved micrometer. On the death of Dr. Maskelyn, Mr. Pond was appointed to succeed him.

The Royal Society enjoys the power of visiting the observatory, and examining, at pleasure, the condition of the instruments; and by the directions of his Majesty, the observations made by the astronomer royal are regularly published with the philosophical transactions by that learned body.

Blackheath, so called probably from the black soil which extends over a great portion of the same, is a beautiful plain lying on the south side of Greenwich park, being about seven miles from the metropolis. A situation so eligible for building naturally attracted the notice of opulent traders, whose concerns in the metropolis require their constant attention, and whose affluence enables them to indulge in the enjoyment of a country villa. On this account the number of neat boxes and ornamented retreats for that description of persons, has progresssively increased, and many spacious, as well as splendid mansions, have arisen on every side, even royalty not having disdained a seat among them. Her late royal highness, the duchess of Brunswick, and the princess of Wales, both dwelt on this spot; where some of the early days of her playful childhood were passed, by the universally lamented princess Charlotte, the lost hope of Britain.

Under a remarkable promontory, on the verge of the plain towards Greenwich, and immediately commanding the latter, a large cavern was accidentally discovered in 1780, consisting of seven spacious vaults, or apartments, communicating with each other by arches cut in the rock, and penetrating more than 150 feet into the hill. The floor, or bottom, was a fine dry sand, 170 feet below the surface of the ground, and therein was found a well of very pure water, twenty-seven feet deep, varieties of the seasons appearing to have produced no influence whatsoever. Conjecture has been wildly employed respecting the origin and uses of this singular excavation, but no account upon which any reliance can be placed has been preserved either of its history or design, nor were any relics, utensils, or weapons discovered, or indeed any thing which could assist the curious inquirer. On this heath a gravel pit is dug, consisting of smooth even pebbles, so superior to the produce of any other place for making walks in gardens, when mixed with loam, that it is sent for from the most distant parts of England, and even France for that purpose. The high road from London to Dover crosses this heath, and at the entrance of Deptford hill the houses on either side form a village of elegant and handsome buildings.

At the north-east corner of the heath, and almost joining Maize hill, are Vanbrugh's fields, so called from Sir John Vanbrugh, the architect of several buildings in the vicinity, which he erected in a peculiar manner, resembling a fortification, with battlements and towers, and a gateway of the same form, under which you pass as you approach them. A principal structure of this kind, called the castle, on Maize hill, was lately the residence of Lord Tyrawley, who sold it to Mr. Charles Brett, and he alienated it to Henry Goodwyn, esq., who afterwards resided there.

The Roman Watling-street way, leading to Dover, is supposed to have crossed this heath. Dr. Plot says, in his time it appeared very plain, pointing from the top of Deptford hill east-south-east, towards Shooter's hill, and a little beyond the Park wall, leaving the high road on the left hand, when, showing itself but faintly, it inclined easterly. At a small distance from the corner of the hedge, on the right hand, where the road to Dover and that to Lee separates, are the

remains of *three tumuli, or barrows,* one is rather large, whence some bones were dug up. In 1710 a number of urns were found, and among them two of an unusual form, the one globular, the other cylindrical, about eighteen inches in length, both formed of a fine red clay. The globular urn was smooth and thin, its circumference six feet three inches, and contained ashes, but no coins; under the rim, about the mouth, the words, MARCUS AURELIUS 4TH, were rudely scratched. The other contained a great quantity of ashes, and in the cavity were six or seven coins, much obliterated, but on one of them was legible the word CLAUDIUS, and on another GALLIÆNUS.

Dr. Plot also states that, some years ago, a curious glass urn was found in a bed of hard gravel on this heath.

On the left-hand side of the high road, near the gates leading to Comes hill, is a cluster of these *barrows,* amounting to about fifty, and there are the same number in Greenwich park. In 1784 the latter were opened by Mr. Douglas, who discovered therein lumps of iron, broad-headed nails, with decayed wood adhering to them, from which he conjectured that the bodies of the dead must have been interred in very thick coffins. There were likewise found a great quantity of human hair, spear heads, knives, fragments of bones, and remnants of woollen cloth: those not enclosing military weapons, he was induced to conclude, had contained female bodies. The graves were extremely shallow, and the ground containing this cluster of *barrows,* nearly in a circular form, the diameter being 100 feet. About seventy years prior to the above period, some of the soil where these *barrows* were situated was dug up, when numerous articles of value were discovered.

The same year Mr. Douglas explored another range of *barrows* near the gate that leads to Comes hill, similar in number, which he conceived to be British, and on opening one, beads were found, similar to those wherein he had also discovered coins; he dated their age to be of the 5th, and beginning of the 6th centuries. He likewise found the remains of a garment, and a braid of human hair, of an auburn colour; also remnants of cloth, both woollen and linen, of different fineness and texture: the graves were very shallow, some not exceeding three feet in depth.

From the turning towards Lee, till about half a mile on this

side Shooters hill, there are no certain marks of the Roman way, but the high road from thence to Dover having been so much altered, and the whole surface entirely changed, the remains of the Roman way are not so frequent and visible as before.

On BLACKHEATH the Danish army lay for a long time encamped, A.D. 1011, as before observed, many trenches and other remains of the lines of camps being still visible, though these, in all likelihood, are most of them works of a much later date, having been cast up by the rebels who have encamped here at different periods. In 1381 those insolent insurgents, Wat Tyler, Jack Straw, and one John Ball, and their adherents, pitched their tents on this heath for some time, with a rabble amounting to nearly 100,000 men. In 1450 Jack Cade, the impostor, who pretended to be a Mortimer, and kinsman to the duke of York, here encamped twice with his rebellious followers: on one occasion, when he despatched hence his insolent demands to Henry VI.; and again, soon after, on his defeat of Sir Humphry Stafford, and his brother, whom the king had sent against them near Sevenoak, when they marched hither, and, being joined by a large party from Sussex and Surrey, encamped at this spot, where they intrenched themselves. Henry VI., in 1452, here pitched his royal pavilion during the preparations he made to withstand the forces of his cousin, Edward, duke of York, (afterwards Edward IV.;) and on Blackheath the bastard Falconbridge also encamped against that monarch. In the reign of Henry VII., A.D. 1497, the Cornish rebels, amounting to 6000 men, headed by the Lord Audley, one Michael Joseph, a farrier, and Thomas Flammock, a lawyer, encamped on this heath, where the king gave them battle, and slew 2000 on the spot, forcing the rest, with their leaders, to surrender at discretion. Besides these sanguinary occurrences, there have also been some *joyous meetings* and costly fetes held on this heath.

In 1400 Manuel Palæogus, emperor of Constantinople, arrived in England to entreat the king's assistance against Bajazet, emperor of the Turks, when he was met on Blackheath by Henry IV. with great parade and magnificence. On November 23, A.D. 1415, the mayor and aldermen of London, accompanied by 400 citizens in scarlet, wearing red and white

hoods, met their victorious prince Henry V. after the memorable battle of Agincourt, whom they conducted to London amids repeated acclamations.

At the commencement of the following year they also welcomed the emperor Sigismund on this heath, who came over to mediate a peace between the crowns of France and England. He was attended by the duke of Gloucester, and many other lords, with great pomp and magnificence, and by them escorted to the king, who received him at Lambeth. In 1474 the lord mayor and aldermen of London, in scarlet, with 500 citizens, all in murrey coloured gowns, met Edward IV. on this spot, upon his return from France. In the 10th of Henry VIII., A.D. 1518, a solemn embassy, consisting of the admiral of France, the archbishop of Paris, and others, with no less than 1200 persons in their train, were received on this heath by the lord admiral of England, and above 500 gentlemen. Cardinal Campejus, sent into England by the pope as his legate, in 1518, was received upon his arrival with great pomp and respect, being met at Blackheath by the duke of Norfolk, and a great number of prelates, knights, and gentlemen, and conducted by them into a rich tent of cloth of gold, where he changed his habit, and having put on his cardinal's robes, edged with ermine, rode thence in much state to London. At this place Henry VIII., in his 31st year, met the princess Anne of Cleves, with vast pomp and magnificence. During the reign of Elizabeth, A.D. 1585, in the months of April and May, the queen being at Greenwich, the city militia, completely armed, mustered before her, for six or eight days, lying intrenched about Blackheath, to the number of 4000 or 5000 men, many of whom were adorned with scarfs and feathers.

In addition to the above there have been numerous other meetings held on Blackheath, this being the spot where in general, such as were of any distinction coming from abroad, were welcomed, in order that they might be conducted with proper state thence to London.

The annual fairs formerly held on the 12th, 13th, and 14th of May, were, by public notice given by the earl of Dartmouth in 1772, discontinued, except that on the 12th of May, and 11th of October, for the sale of cattle only, when they attend on that part of the heath which lies in Lewisham.

There was a royal magazine for gunpowder at Greenwich for the use of government; but, it being represented as extremely dangerous, not only to the town but the city of London and neighbourhood, it was, by authority of Parliament, removed to Purfleet, in Essex, where a regular branch of the ordnance is established for its care and preservation.

In the reign of Henry VIII., there was a printing-office at Greenwich, Dr. Plot having seen a book issued in that reign from this town.

At the period of Queen Elizabeth, the assizes for this county were held three times at East Greenwich; viz. A.D. 1558, in the 1st year of that reign, before sergeants at law elect, Carius and Chomley; in the third week during Lent, A.D. 1561, in the 4th year of the same reign, before sergeant Ralph Chomley and the attorney general, Gerard; and again in Lent, A.D. 1562, in the 5th year of the same reign, before the last-mentioned judges.

East Greenwich sent two burgesses to the Parliament, which met in Westminster in the 4th and 5th of Philip and Mary, viz. Thomas Farnham and John Sackvill, esqs.; but this is the only return ever made.

Greenwich gave *title* to that eminent and illustrious soldier, John Campbell, duke of Argyle, in Scotland, who, in the 5th of Queen Anne, was created baron of Chatham and earl of Greenwich; and on the 30th of April, 1719, in the 5th of George I., in consideration of his great services to the nation, was advanced to the dignity of duke of Greenwich. He died in 1743, without issue male, whereby his titles of duke and earl of Greenwich and Chatham became extinct, and lies buried in Westminster abbey, under a magnificent monument. The duke bore for his arms, quarterly, first and fourth, *girony of eight pieces, or and sable,* for Campbell; second and third, *Argent, a lymphad or, old fashioned ship, with one mast, close sails, and oars, in action, all sable, with flags and pennons flying, gules,* for the lordship of Lorn.

By his first wife, who died in 1716, he had no issue; but by his second, Jane, daughter of Thomas Warburton, esq. of Winnington, in Cheshire, he had five daughters and coheirs; of whom, lady Caroline Campbell, the eldest, married, in 1742, Francis earl of Dalkeith, eldest son of the duke of Buccleugh,

who died before his father, in 1750. By him she had six children; and in second marriage, espoused, in 1755, the Hon. Charles Townshend, son of viscount Townshend, and on the 18th of August, in the 7th of George III., was created baroness of Greenwich, to her and her heirs male, by the right Hon. Charles Townshend, who died the September following. By her he left two sons, Thomas Charles and William John, and one daughter; the two sons died before their mother, who also dying in 1794, without surviving male issue by her second husband, the title of baroness Greenwich became extinct.

The manors of Greenwich and Combe were always appendages to that adjoining of Lewisham, and as such, were given by Elthruda, niece of King Alfred, to the abbey of St. Peter, at Ghent, to which Lewisham became a cell, or alien priory. That grant is said to have been renewed and confirmed, at the instance of archbishop Dunstan, by King Edgar, in 964, as it was again by King Edward the Confessor, in 1044, with the church and several liberties and privileges.

There is no particular mention of this manor in Domesday, and being most probably an appendage to another manor, it was comprised as part of the possessions of the abbot of Ghent, under the general title of Lewisham. William the Conqueror again confirmed this grant, as did also several of his successors, particularly Henry I., who granted many additional liberties and privileges.

Upon a plea of *quo warranto* brought against the abbot, in the 21st of Edward I., the abbot claimed to have, in Lewisham and its appendages, view of frankpledge and all rights belonging to the same, and *free warren*, gallows, and amerciaments, as well of the inhabitants as of his own tenants, and waif; all which the jurors allowed him and his predecessors to have possessed time out of mind, excepting that they had not *free warren* in their demesne lands.

The manor of Lewisham, with Greenwich, remained in this situation till the suppression of the alien priories throughout England, by the statute of the 2d of Henry V., A.D. 1414, when Lewisham was dissolved, on which, the manor of Greenwich, with the church and appendages, became the property of the crown, where it did not long remain, as, the following year, the king settled it, with the church, on his new

founded house, or Carthusian priory of Jesus of Bethleham, of or near Shene.

But Greenwich having become a royal residence, this manor, as well as Lewisham, being in possession of the monks, could not but give continual umbrage to the princely inhabitants of this palace. However, the religious fraternity remained in quiet possession till Henry VIII., less scrupulous in these matters, found means to obtain the surrendry of both, and to annex them to the patrimony of the crown, in his 23d year; when John Joburne, prior of Shene, and its convent, granted to that prince the manors and lordships of Lewisham and East Greenwich, with their appurtenances, and the churches belonging thereto, excepting and reserving to the prior three tenements in East Greenwich, late belonging to John Cole, subdean of the king's chapel, and other premises therein mentioned.

This manor remained part of the royal demesnes till the death of Charles I., in 1648, when it became the property of the state. After that period, an ordinance was passed the following year, for the sale of the crown lands, in which the honour and manor of Greenwich, among others, was reserved to its own use; when it continued in that situation till the re-establishment of monarchy, and was again returned to the crown, as part of the royal patrimony, where it has ever since remained.

A court-leet and court-baron is held for this manor.

Old court is a place in this parish, which, as its name implies, is no doubt of great antiquity, and might probably be the very site of the before-mentioned manor of East Greenwich. It passed, however, by the same deed of exchange, from the prior and convent of Shene, to Henry VIII., in his 23d year, and became part of the possessions of the crown, where it continued but a few years, as that prince, by his letters patent, granted to his servant, Richard Long, for his life, his manor, called *Le Old court*, in East and West Greenwich, and the tenth part or portion of hay, corn, and other tithes, in those parishes appertaining to the same, late belonging to the priory of Shene, to hold without any account or rent whatsoever. On his death, a similar grant was made to Sir Thomas Speke, knight, by Edward VI., in his 1st year; after which, the king,

by his letters patent, in his 4th year, granted to John earl of Warwick, his manor, otherwise the Old court, and forty acres of upland, and the tenth of hay, of East Greenwich, belonging to it, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service; but the earl, in less than a fortnight, again conveyed them to the king, who, the following year, granted them to Thomas Darcy, lord Darcy, of Chiche, to hold during his life, without any account or rent whatsoever.

At the death of Charles I., Old court, with some of the demesne lands, still remained in the crown, and in 1649, the Parliament passed an ordinance for the sale of the lands late belonging to the crown; in consequence of which, this manor, with its appurtenances, parcel of the honour of East Greenwich, the parsonage house, and several tenements and lands, were sold to Robert Titchborne, who kept possession of them till the restoration of Charles II., in 1660, when they again became part of the royal revenue.

Some years after, this manor or site, called *Le Old court*, with several demesne lands, was granted by the crown, under William III., to the trustees, for the use of Sir John Morden, bart. of Wricklesmarsh, in Charlton, at the yearly feefarm rent of £6 13 4. He by his will, in 1708, vested it in trustees, for the use and benefit of his newly erected institution, since called Morden college, where it still continues. It has been already mentioned, that from the camp of the Danes, in this parish, there are certain places therein, called *Combe*, of which two remain; one, most commonly called Combe; and the other, West Combe; and formerly, according to ancient evidences, another, called Middle Combe, or Spittle Combe, now quite forgotten.

Combe, otherwise *East*, or *Nether Combe*, was an appendage to the manor of Lewisham, and given, with that manor, to St. Peter's abbey, at Ghent, where it remained till the suppression of alien priories by Henry V., in his 2d year, who settled it, with that manor, on his new founded priory at Shene. It was then exchanged with Henry VIII., in his 23d year, by the prior and convent, for other premises; and from that time Combe remained in the crown till the reign of Charles I., who, in his 7th year, granted it to Thomas Cooke and Thomasine, his wife, for three lives, at the yearly rent of £42 16 8, and fifty

loads of hay, to be delivered yearly at the barn at Greenwich, for feeding the king's horses, and paying, after the decease of the three nominees, 60s., in the name of an heriot. The king afterwards, in his 12th year, in consequence of the great damage sustained by him in the breach of the Thames wall, and its reparations, and of £50, to be paid beforehand, granted him a further lease for thirty-one years, to commence immediately after the expiration of the former term, at the same annual rent. After that period, John Cooke, above mentioned, and one Miles Newton, to whom both the grants were assigned by way of mortgage, in 1636, conveyed their interest to Peter Fortree, gent., in which situation this estate remained at the death of Charles I., in 1648. A survey being then ordered by Parliament of the crown lands, it appeared that Leah, widow and executrix of Peter Fortree, deceased, was then in possession of these grants ; that the value of the fifty loads of hay, *communibus annis*, was £66 13, which, with the reserved rent of £42 16 8, amounted to £109 10, and that the value of the improved rent of the farm, over and above the reserved rent, was £150 13. By virtue of the above ordinance, this farm of Nethercombe, or Eastcombe, was sold to Thomas French.

On the restoration of Charles II., the fee of this estate returned to the crown, and the possession to the Fortree's, when James Fortree, son of Leah, in 1663, quitted his residence here, and built Wombwell hall, in Northfleet, where that family continued till within late years.

Combe passed subsequently into the possession, and was the residence, of Sir William Sanderson. This family is said to be descended from Robert de Bedick, of Bedick lordship, in Washington, in the bishopric of Durham, who lived in the time of the Empress Maud. James, third son of Alexander de Bedick, being called Alexanderson, was ancestor of this family, which, from him, came to be called Sanderson, having borne for its coat armour, *Paly of six, argent and azure, a bend sable.* The family of this name, in the bishopric of Durham, bears *a sword, argent, on the bend ;* and it is also borne with *three mullets on the bend,* by others. Sir William Sanderson was created a baronet in 1720, and succeeded by his son, of the same name, who, by his third wife, Charlotte, one of the

daughters of Sir Richard Gough, of the county of Warwick, left an only child, William Henry, who on the death of his father, in 1754, succeeded him in title; and he died in 1760, in his fifteenth year, when it became extinct. On the death of Sir William his father, his widow, lady Sanderson, became entitled to this seat and estate, whereof she died possessed in 1780, when they devolved to the right Hon. Frederic Montague, as heir at law, who possessed the same. Since, being held by the Sanderson's, this seat has been the residence of different persons, and was for many years occupied by general Harvey, and afterwards by John Hook Campbell, esq., lion king at arms. There is a feefarm rent of £42 17, paid to the crown for this manor.

In the 37th of Henry VIII., an Act of Parliament was passed to compel every person, who should be owner of *Coombe marshes*, in the parish of East Greenwich, to contribute, from time to time, towards their reparation, according to the laws and customs of Romney marsh.

WESTCOMBE MANOR is held of the manor of Dartford, otherwise Richmond's, and is called in the rolls, *the manor of Combe West.*

In the reign of Edward II., this manor and its appendant members were in the possession of the family of Badlesmere, but on the attainder of Bartholomew lord Badlesmere, they escheated to the crown, and continued among the royal revenues till the reign of Richard II. He granted them to Sir Robert Belknap, the judge, upon whose attainder, in the 10th year of the same reign, they again reverted to the crown, and were soon after granted, in fee, by that monarch, to Robert Ballard, esq. (*pincernæ suæ,*) his butler, namely, the manors of Westcombe and Spittlecombe, in Greenwich, and two watermills, in Deptford, with their appurtenances, in Charlton and Wricklesmarsh.

In the 14th of Henry VII., Anne, wife of lord Audley, held these manors, in Greenwich and Charlton, of the countess of Richmond, but by what service, was unknown, and William Ballard was found to be her heir. In that name they continued till the beginning of the reign of Philip and Mary, when Nicholas Ballard alienated Westcombe to John Lambarde, esq., draper, and alderman, and formerly one of the sheriffs

of London, who dying in 1554, was buried in the church of St. Michael, Wood street, London. By Julian, his wife, he was father of that ingenious and learned antiquary, William Lambarde, who succeeded him in this estate, and resided here. He was bencher of the society of Lincoln's Inn, master in Chancery, and keeper of the rolls and records; he also belonged to the Alienation-office, under Queen Elizabeth, and was well known by the many learned books which he published. In 1568, he wrote his *Archionomia;* in 1570, his *Perambulation of Kent;* in 1581, his *Eirenarcha,* or Office of Justice of Peace; in 1591, his *Archeion,* or Discourse upon the Courts of Justice; and in 1600, his *Pandecta Rotulorum;* besides several treatises, some of which remain unpublished; and a Topographical Dictionary, that appeared in 1730. He founded and endowed a college for the poor at Greenwich, in 1574, giving it the name of Queen Elizabeth's college; and dying at Westcombe, in 1601, was buried at Greenwich, where a handsome monument was erected. When the old church of Greenwich was pulled down, in order to erect the present fabric, the monuments of Sir Multon Lambarde and his father were conveyed, at the charge of Thomas Lambarde, esq. late of Sevenoak, and reared in the church of the latter place, with an additional inscription, setting forth the reason why the removal had been effected. The Lambardes bore for their arms, *Gules, a chevron vaire between three lambs of the second.*

Mr. Lambarde had three wives; first, Jane, daughter of George Multon, esq. of St. Cleres, by whom he left no issue; secondly, Silvestria, daughter and heir of Robert Deane, of Halling, in this county, and widow of William Dalyson, esq., by whom he had Multon, his only son and successor, and one daughter, Margaret, married to Thomas Godfrey; he married, thirdly, Margaret Reader, by whom he had no issue. Sir Multon, his son, married Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Lowe, bart., alderman of London, who dying here in 1634, was buried in Greenwich church. He left Thomas his son and heir, who being a great royalist in 1648, was obliged to compound for his estate, which had been sequestered at so high a rate, that he was compelled to alienate the property of Westcombe to Hugh Forth, who passed it away to Mr. Theophilus

Biddulph, of London, third son of Michael Biddulph, esq. of Elmhurst, near Lichfield, Staffordshire.

The family of the Biddulph's derive their origin from one Ormus de Guidon, lord of Darlaweston, who lived at or near the time of the Conqueror, some of whose descendants assumed the name of Biddulph from their residence at that village, in the northern part of Staffordshire. The family of Biddulph bore for its arms, *Vert, an eagle displayed, argent.* Theophilus Biddulph, esq., before mentioned, resided at Westcombe, and having been first knighted, was created a baronet in the 16th of Charles II. By Susanna, his wife, daughter of Zachary Highlord, alderman of London, he left Sir Michael Biddulph, bart., who, on the death of his father, succeeded to this manor, of which he died possessed in 1718, leaving a son and several daughters. His heirs soon after alienated the manor of Westcombe to Sir Gregory Page, bart., who died possessed of it in 1775, and by will devised this, among the rest of his estates, to his nephew, Sir Gregory Turner, bart. of Ambrosden, in Oxfordshire. Since the family of the Biddulph's, this seat was inhabited by Charles duke of Bolton, afterwards by the duchess of Athol, and subsequently by William Holmes, esq.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

In the time of Edward the Confessor, besides the manor of East Greenwich, before mentioned, there were *two other manors*, one held by earl Harold, the other by one Brixi; both of which passed to the possession of the Conqueror, who gave them, as one manor, to Odo bishop of Bayeux, which was held of him by the bishop of Lisieux, in France; and at the period of the survey of Domesday, entered accordingly in that record.

This manor most probably reverted to the crown on the disgrace of the bishop, and became part of the royal demesne; since which, it has remained, without interruption, in the possession of the royal family of England, having been the site of a PALACE, inhabited by many of our kings and queens.

GREENWICH was a royal residence from the reign of Henry IV. until the usurpation of Cromwell; the park was originally enclosed by Humphrey, (styled the *good*) duke of Gloucester,

who rebuilt the then manor, or mansion house, and erected a turret on the spot, now occupied by the Observatory. In the 11th of Henry VI., a grant was made to the duke, to enclose 200 acres of land in Greenwich, and form a park there, to hold in fee; both grants reciting, that part of the land was parcel of the manor of East Greenwich, belonging to the priory and convent of Shene; and in the latter grant, there is licence given, for the duke and Eleanor, his wife, "to embattle their manor of Greenwich, build with stone, and enclose and make a ditch and tower within, and also a certain tower in their park, to build and edify."

This special permission was accorded, it not being then lawful for any man to fortify his own house, or raise a tower or place of defence, without licence from the crown, under an apprehension of internal sedition; it was therefore inquirable before the escheater, in the twenty-fourth article of his office. The word *Kernellane*, to embattle, has its derivation from *Charneux*, which, in French, signifies the indented form of the top of a wall, having *vent* and *crest*, commonly called *embattling*, because it was serviceable, in fight, to the defender, who might, at the loops or lower places, annoy an enemy, and screen himself under the higher parts.

Soon after, the duke newly erected the palace on the spot, where the west wing of the royal hospital now stands; he also imparked a quantity of land, and built a tower, now the Observatory. He styled this manor, from its situation, *Le Plaizance*, which name was not commonly used till the reign of Henry VIII. The whole, however, reverted to the crown, upon the death of the duke, which took place in the 25th of Henry VI.; and from that time, till the usurpation of Cromwell, Greenwich was a favorite royal residence. Newcom, in his history of the Abbey of St. Alban's, states, that John de la Motte, the thirty-first abbot, paid Richard II. a tax, called *Plaisance*, to aid that king in the building for him a mansion at Greenwich; the meaning of which was, its being an optional tax with the dignitary in question.

Richard duke of York, father of Edward IV., solemnized his marriage here with great splendor; Henry VII. resided at Greenwich, where Henry VIII. was born, who at this place subsequently solemnized his marriage with Catherine of

Arragon. In 1532, Edward VI. kept his Christmas according to the hospitable custom of those times, at his manor of Greenwich, where, in the course of the ensuing summer, he died.

Edward IV. took great delight in this palace, and bestowed much cost in finishing and enlarging the structure, and in his 5th year, granted it to his queen, Elizabeth, by the description of the lordship and manor of Greenwich, with the tower of Greenwich, and the parks there, and all lands and privileges, to the manor, pertaining in Greenwich, or elsewhere, within the county of Kent; together with all lands, rents, and services, in this county, which belonged to Humphrey, late duke of Gloucester; to hold for her life, in as ample a manner as they were held by the late duke.

In this reign, a *royal joust* was performed at Greenwich, on the marriage of Richard duke of York, the king's son, with Anne Mowbray, daughter of the duke of Norfolk. In the 23d of Edward IV., Mary, the king's fifth daughter, died here; she had been betrothed to the king of Denmark, but her dissolution occurred prior to its consummation. This manor, with its appurtenances, reverting to Henry VII., he enlarged the buildings, and beautified the house with a brick front, towards the river, and finished the tower in the park, that had been commenced by duke Humphrey, when he constantly resided here, and frequently kept his Christmases at this palace. Henry VIII., as he exceeded all other princes in the sumptuousness of his buildings, spared no cost in rendering this edifice truly magnificent; and Leland, the antiquary, who was an eyewitness of its beauties, has thus described them in his Itinerary:

"Lo! with what lustre shines this wished-for place!
Which, star like, might the heavenly mansions grace.
What painted roofs! What windows charm the eye!
What turrets, rivals of the starry sky!
What constant springs! What verdant meads besides!
Where Flora's self in majesty resides,
And beauteous all around her does dispense,
With bounteous hands, her flow'ry influence.
Happy the man, whose lucky wit could frame,
To suit this place, so elegant a name,
Expressing all its beauties in the same!"

At this manor of Plaisance, otherwise East Greenwich, as it was usually called, during the above reign as well as afterwards, many great feasts and banquetings were held; elections of the knights of the Garter; royal jousts; and challengings; more particularly on the 13th of May, in the 7th of Henry VIII., upon the marriage of Mary, queen dowager of Louis XII. of France, with that most accomplished nobleman, Charles duke of Suffolk, the same having been publicly solemnized in the church of this palace. Great and solemn jousts were performed on May 20, in the 8th year of the same prince; again on Shrove Tuesday, in his 18th year; and on the 1st of May, in his 38th year, A.D. 1536. In 1517, a magnificent banquet was kept at Greenwich; and in 1527, being the 19th of Henry VIII, on the embassy being sent by the king of France, in order that it might correspond with that of our own court in magnificence, consisted of eight persons, of high quality and merit, from the Gallic monarch, attended by 600 horse; when the whole were received by the king at his manor of Plaisance, with the greatest marks of honour, and entertained in a more sumptuous manner than had ever been before witnessed. In the 25th year of the same prince, the lady Elizabeth, afterwards queen, was christened here; and in his 35th year, he kept a *royal Christmas* at Greenwich, as he had before done; on which occasion, he royally feasted and delivered, without ransom, twenty-one of the Scotch nobility, whom he had taken prisoners, on the November previous, at the battle at Salmon Moss, near Carlisle.

Many royal persons have been born at Greenwich; among others, as previously observed, Henry VIII., his brother Edmund, King Edward VI., Queen Mary, and her sister Queen Elizabeth, as well as several children of James I.

Queen Elizabeth made numerous additions to the buildings, and resided much at the palace; in the 2d year of whose reign, on July 2, 1559, the *city of London* entertained the queen with a *muster*, each company sending out a number of men at arms, comprising, in all, 1400. On the 1st of July, they marched out of London, in coats of velvet and chains of gold, with guns, morris pikes, halberts, and flags, over London bridge, to the duke of Suffolk's park, in Southwark, where they all mustered before the lord mayor, and lay abroad in St.

George's fields, during the night. The ensuing morning, they moved towards Greenwich, to the court there, and thence into the park, where they remained till eight o'clock, and then marched into the town, and mustered in their arms, all the gunners wearing shirts of mail. At five o'clock in the afternoon, the queen came into the gallery over the park gate, with the ambassadors, lords, and ladies; when the lord admiral Dudley, and several other nobles and knights, rode to and fro, to view and arrange them in battle array, that they might skirmish before the queen, the trumpets sounding and flutes playing. There were three onsets, in every battle the guns discharging at one another, the morris pikes encountering together with great alarm, each running again to his weapon, and encountering together as fast as they could in close fight. After this, Mr. Chamberlain, and several of the commons of the city, and the wiflers, presented themselves before the queen, who thanked them and all the city; whereupon, the loudest shout was given, with throwing up of caps, &c., when her majesty appeared extremely pleased. The above shows were followed by running at tilt, when they all departed for London. The 10th of the same month, the queen being still at Greenwich, and well knowing how much pomp and shows, especially military, delighted her subjects, caused a banqueting house to be set up for herself in Greenwich park, made with fir poles, and decked with birch branches, and all sorts of flowers; tents were also erected for the kitchen and offices, and provisions laid in, of wine, ale, and beer; a place was also appointed for the queen's pensioners, who were to run with spears, the challengers being there, namely, the earl of Ormond, Sir John Perrot, and Mr. North; and the defenders, of equal valour, with lances and swords. At five in the afternoon, the queen presented herself, with the ambassadors, and many lords and ladies, standing over the park gate, to view the exercise. She then descended into the park, where taking horse, she rode to the banquetting house to supper. Then followed a mask, after which, a sumptuous banquet was served; and fireworks, with shooting of guns, continued till twelve at night, with which the entertainment concluded.

Queen Elizabeth was remarkably fond of this palace, and made it for several years, her principal summer retreat; a

German traveller, of the name of Hentzner, details a very curious description of Elizabeth and her court, at Greenwich.

The presence chamber, he observes, "was hung with rich tapestry, and, according to the fashion of those days, strewed with hay; upon the queen coming out to go to prayers, she was attended in the following manner: first went gentlemen, who were followed by barons, earls, and knights of the Garter, all richly dressed, with their heads uncovered; next came the chancellor, bearing the seals, in a red silk purse, between two, one of whom carried the royal sceptre, the other the sword of state, in a red scabbard, studded with golden fleurs de lis, the point upwards; then came her majesty, who was at that time in her sixty-fifth year, she was very majestic, her face oblong, fair, but wrinkled, her eyes small and black, but still pleasant, her nose a little hooked, her lips narrow, and her teeth black; she wore two pearls in her ears, with very rich drops, she also wore false hair, and that red; upon her head was a small crown, made, it is said, of some of the gold of the celebrated Lunebourgh table. Her bosom was uncovered, adorned with a necklace of costly jewels; her hands were small, and her fingers taper; her stature of a middling height; and her manner of speaking mild and obliging. That day she was dressed in white silk, bordered with pearls of the size of beans, and over it, a mantle of black silk, shot with silver; her train was very long, the end of which was borne by a marchioness; instead of a chain, she had an oblong collar of gold and jewels. As she went along, she spoke very graciously to those who attended, as well as to foreign ministers, in English, French, and Italian, for, in addition to her understanding both Greek and Latin, she was also well acquainted and complete mistress of Spanish, Scotch, and Dutch; every one spoke to her kneeling. The ladies of the court followed next to her, all extremely handsome and elegantly shaped, and they were attired in white dresses. She was guarded on each side by the gentlemen pensioners, fifty in number, with gilt battleaxes; in the anti-chapel next the hall, she received petitions, and that most graciously, which occasioned the acclamations of 'Long live Queen Elizabeth!' she answered it with, 'I thank you, my good people.'"

King James erected a new brickwork towards the garden,

and walled in the park, he also laid the foundation of the *House of Delight*, towards the park, since allotted to the rangers, which Henrietta Maria, wife of Charles I., completed, and furnished so magnificently that it far surpassed all other houses of the kind at that time in England.

On Saturday, May 5, in the 3d of King James, the christening of the Princess Mary was performed with great solemnity at the court of Greenwich. In that reign also, Henry Howard, earl of Northampton, had a grant of the castle in the park, which he enlarged and beautified, and being much pleased with its situation, made it his principal residence. He died unmarried in the 12th year of the same reign.

Charles I. resided a length of time at this place, till the year 1641, and left it, with the fatal resolution of taking his journey northward, when the events that succeeded prevented him from ever visiting it again. On his death, in 1648, this palace, &c. was, with the other possessions of the crown, seized by the Parliamentarians, who passed an ordinance for the sale of the crown lands, excepting however, for their own use, among others, the late king's honours, palaces, and parks, the honour and manor of East Greenwich, the house called Greenwich house, and the Queen's new buildings, with the gardens, orchards, &c. belonging to the same, the park adjoining, commonly called Greenwich park, and the castle within it, then accounted a place of some strength and consequence. It appears that when the Parliament thought proper to secure for its use the several forts and places of strength on either side of the river Thames, an ordinance was passed in 1642, referring to the committee of the militia in London, to take proper means for securing this castle, with the Blockhouses at Gravesend and Blackheath. The extent of the royal palace may still be traced, by the names of several streets and places, in the town of Greenwich, called, in the old parish books, the King's House and Barne, King's Barnes, Queen's Barnes, King's Mews, Queen's Mews, the Court, the Palace, and the Palace yard; there is also a place in Greenwich called Royal Hill.

But the necessities of the Commonwealth, sometime after, requiring money for the expenses of the navy, their house of Commons, in 1652, resolved that Green-

wich Park house and the lands should be immediately sold.

Particulars were accordingly made out, for the sale of the hobby stables, and other trifling erections, as well as the royal garden and palace; but no further proceedings, as to the remainder, seem to have been resolved upon at that period.

In 1654, the sub-committee for the revenue finding that the house and park of East Greenwich, and other palaces of the late king, which had been surveyed and valued, then remained unsold, after solemn debates, declared that they were fit places for the accommodation of the Lord Protector, and therefore not valued at any gross sum, but allowed towards the revenue, as returned in the survey, at the yearly rental of £1254 13 4. The beautiful grove under Greenwich castle had been, some time previous, demolished, in the general destruction made of the royal parks, woods, and forests.

On the restoration of Charles II., in 1660, this manor and palace, with the park and other royal demesnes, again reverted to the crown. The above prince, finding that the old palace was greatly decayed by time, and want of necessary repairs, during the usurpation, shortly after his return, formed the design of erecting a most magnificent structure at Greenwich, when he completed one end of a stately pile of building, of freestone, now the west wing of the hospital, at an expense of £36,000, but proceeded no further in the undertaking, having also, as before mentioned, walled round the park, as it now appears.

In this unfinished state the palace continued till the time of King William, who being desirous of promoting the naval strength of the kingdom, gave it, with several edifices, and some adjoining grounds, as an HOSPITAL, for the use of those English seamen of his royal navy and their children, who, by age, wounds, or other casulties, should be disabled from further service. For that purpose, the king and queen issued their letters patent, in the 6th year of their reign, A.D. 1694, whereby they granted to lord Somers, then lord keeper, and several of the great officers of state, a parcel of ground in East Greenwich, being part of their majesties' manor of East Greenwich, and the capital messuage, lately built by their royal uncle, Charles II., still remaining unfinished, commonly

called the Palace of Greenwich, with several other edifices and buildings, standing upon part of the ground bounded by the river Thames, on the north, to hold, as of their manor of East Greenwich, in free and common socage, by fealty only, to the intent that the premises should be converted into AN HOSPITAL, for the above purposes, which plan is said to have been previously suggested by Sir Christopher Wren; and that as soon as the building should be finished, the king and queen would establish a corporation, or *body politique*, for the government thereof, and then convey the premises to the said body, which being afterwards established, they were accordingly vested in those personages.

The following year, the queen being dead, the king again issued his letters patent for a commission, setting forth, that nothing would more effectually contribute to the trade, navigation, and naval strength of the realm, than the establishment of some competent provision for seamen, who by age, wounds, or other accidents, should become disabled, and not in a condition to maintain themselves.

To effect this desirable end, he commissioned George, hereditary prince of Denmark, and a great number of the nobility, bishops, and aldermen of London, as well as the commissioners of the navy, and other gentlemen, to meet for the executing that commission, and to consider of the proper methods for performing the same. They were also to prepare models of the buildings, with such schemes and draughts as might best explain them; to draw up a charter of foundation, with statutes and efficient orders, and to receive the king's yearly allowance towards this building, and all gifts and subscriptions that any other persons might contribute towards the same.

After that commission, an Act of Parliament passed for the more effectual forwarding and perfecting this excellent design, and providing a sufficient endowment; wherein, after several regulations in regard to the admittance of seamen, it was ordered, that every seaman serving his majesty should allow, out of his wages, 6d. per month, for the better support and augmentation of the revenues.

On the accession of Queen Anne, £50,000 had been expended on the buildings, much more being required to finish them; however, they were in such forwardness,

that, in 1705, a hundred disabled seamen were received into this hospital.

Queen Anne issued her commission, in her 3d year, for carrying on and finishing these buildings, for stating the accounts of the same, and providing for such matters as should be thought fit, in regard to the Acts of Parliament then existing, or that might afterwards be passed, for the encouragement of seamen.

In July 1708, the hospital was so far advanced as to contain 350 poor disabled sailors, the income then being computed at £12,000 per annum, whereof one half was allowed for the yearly maintenance of the inmates, and the other moiety towards the erection of the buildings.

In the 10th of Queen Anne, an Act passed, whereby other seamen, though not in the service of the crown, were made liable to the payment of 6d. a month, for the better support of the hospital, and as no seamen had then been admitted but such as had served in the royal navy, it was in future stipulated, that any seaman might enter the institution who should produce an authentic certificate of his being maimed, wounded, or hurt, in defending any ship of her majesty's subjects against the enemy, whereby he was disabled for sea service.

George I., in his 1st year, issued a commission for carrying on, building, and providing for this hospital, revoking the prior commission, and removing the former governors; and being extremely desirous of promoting and carrying on the undertaking, he appointed his son, George Augustus, prince of Wales, and the several great officers of state for the time being, to act as commissioners of the hospital. It was further ordered, that a general court should be held quarterly, at which all officers for the hospital should be recommended to the lord high admiral, who was deputed to appoint them, with the exception of the governor and treasurer; all officers, or others admitted in future to be seafaring persons, and that the general court, with the assistance of the attorney and solicitor general, should forthwith prepare a charter and statutes for the perpetual government of the hospital. That twenty-four persons should be appointed, styled directors, with powers to carry on the buildings, state the accounts for the works, and make contracts for provisions and other necessaries. The lord high admiral, or

general court, when assembled, was to nominate and fill up the number of directors.

King George III., by his charter, in 1775, incorporated the governor of this hospital and others, therein named, as one body politic and corporate, by the title of the *Commissioners and Governors of the Royal Hospital for seamen at Greenwich, in the county of Kent*. Thus has the constant attention of the crown and legislature to this noble charity surmounted every difficulty, which, in its infant state, had proved so difficult a task to encounter.

The royal and national bounty have been from time to time extended towards this noble establishment, both from private and public benefactions, a list of which, from the foundation, according to the tables hung up at the entrance of the hall, amount to upwards of £58,200.

The commissioners and governors of Greenwich Hospital appointed under the charter, are the archbishops, the lord chancellor, the lords of the Privy Council, all the great officers of state, the twelve judges, the flag officers and commissioners of the navy, the master and five senior elder brethren of the Trinity House, the mayor and three senior aldermen of London, as well as the governor, the deputy governor, the directors, and other officers of the hospital for the time being.

The principal officers are, a governor, a lieutenant governor, four captains, eight lieutenants, treasurer, secretary, auditor, surveyor, clerk of the works, clerk of the cheque, two chaplains, a physician, surgeon, steward, and various other assistants and inferior servants. The salary of the governor is £1000 per annum, the lieutenant governor £400, the captains have each £230 per annum, the lieutenants £115 each, and the surveyors £200 each. The treasurer £200, the secretary, clerk of the cheque, and steward, £160 each, the auditor £100, the physician £182 10, the chaplains £130 each, and the clerk of the works £91 5. The officers are also allowed a certain quantity of coals and candles, and 14d. a day, instead of diet.

Greenwich Hospital is a magnificent and extensive structure, erected principally of Portland stone, consisting of four distinct quadrangular piles of building, distinguished by the names of the respective monarchs in whose reigns they were

Drawn by Campion.

Engraved by J.Rogers.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL,
KENT.

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founded. The front, towards the Thames, consists of two ranges of stone buildings, with the ranger's house at the back park, in the centre; behind which, the park rises with a noble ascent. These wings, between which is a large area, bear the names of King Charles and Queen Anne, presenting a general correspondence both in style and arrangement. The north and south fronts convey the appearance of a double pavilion conjoined above, by the continuation of an attic order, with a balustrade surmounting the whole, but separated below by an open portal.

The centre of each pavilion displays an elegant pediment, supported by four Corinthian columns, and the sides a double pilaster of the same order. In the tympanum of the eastern pediment of King Charles's building is a sculpture of Mars and Fame. The east front of this edifice corresponding with that of the west, of Queen Anne's, is rusticated, and has a tetrastyle portico in the centre, of the Corinthian order.

The two southern ranges of buildings, bearing the names of King William and Queen Mary, have, conformably with the above, a general resemblance to each other, though differing in parts and ornaments. To the inner side of each range is attached a handsome colonade of Portland stone, supported by numerous duplicated Doric columns and pilasters, and extending to the length of 347 feet, with a return pavilion at the end, 70 feet long. Above the southern extremity of each colonnade is a turreted dome, rising to the height of 120 feet.

Queen Mary's building contains the *chapel*, which is one of the most elegant specimens of Grecian architecture in this country. The edifice is on the site of a former structure, destroyed by a conflagration, on the 2d of January, 1779, which equally consumed the great dining hall, and as many of the wards as contained the lodgings of 500 people. The whole has since been rebuilt, and the chapel was opened for divine service on the 20th of September, 1789. The portal consists of an architrave of frieze and cornice, of statuary marble; the jams are twelve feet high, in one piece, enriched with excellent sculpture. The frieze is the work of Bacon, and consists of the figures of two angels, with festoons, supporting the sacred writings, on the leaves of which is the following inscription:

"The law was given by Moses,
But grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

Within this entrance is a portico of six fluted columns, fifteen feet high, the capitals and bases are Ionic, after Greek models. The columns form the support of the organ gallery, being crowned by an entablature and balustrade enriched with suitable ornaments. On the tablet, in the front of the gallery, is a basso-relievo, representing the figures of angels sounding the harp. On the pedestals on either side, are ornaments, consisting of trumpets and other musical instruments; and on the tablet between, the following inscription, in letters of gold:

"Praise him with the sound of trumpets,
Praise him with stringed instruments and organs." *Psalm* 150.

In this gallery is a very fine organ, built by Mr. Samuel Green; on each side of the gallery, are four grand columns, their shafts of Scagliola marble, in imitation of Sienna marble, by Richter, and their capitals and vases of statuary marble. At the opposite end of the chapel, are four similar columns, which support the arched ceiling and roof; they are of the Corinthian order, and, with their pedestals, twenty-eight feet high. On the sides of the chapel, between the upper and lower range of windows, are the galleries containing pews for the officers and their families. Those of the governor and lieutenant governor, opposite each other, are distinguished by ornaments, consisting of the naval crown and other insignia. Beneath those galleries and the cantilivers supporting them, are ranges of fluted pilasters. The cantilivers are decorated with antique foliage; the entablature over the pilasters, with marine ornaments; the intervals between them, with festoons; and the pedestals of the balustrade in front of the galleries, with tridents and wreaths. The tablet in the centre of each balustrade contains the arms of the hospital; and the frieze below is carved with a foliage in the Greek style. Over the lower range of windows, are paintings in chiaro oscuro, representing some of the principal events in the life of our Saviour, accompanied by ornaments of chandelabras and festoons. Above the gallery, is a richly carved stone fascia, whereon stands a range of pilasters, of the Composite order, their shafts of Scagliola, corresponding with those of the eight great columns, and jointly with them, appearing to sup-

port the Epistylium which surrounds the whole chapel. The Epistylium is enriched with angels bearing festoons of oak leaves, dolphins, shells, and other applicable ornaments. Thence rises the carved ceiling, which is divided into compartments, adorned with foliage, golochi, &c. after the antique. Between the upper pilasters are recesses, wherein are painted, in chiaro oscuro, the Apostles and Evangelists; and at either end of the galleries, are concave recesses, ornamented with flowers carved in stone. In these recesses are the doors of entrance into the galleries, decorated with enriched pilasters and entablatures, and a group of ornaments, consisting of the naval crown, wreaths of laurel, and tridents. Above the doors, are circular recesses, containing paintings, in chiaro oscuro, of the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Moses, and David. The communion table is a semi oval slab of statuary marble, near eight feet long, supported by six cherubim standing on a white marble step, of the same dimensions. Above, is a painting by West, in a superb carved and gilt frame, representing the Preservation of St. Paul from Shipwreck on the Island of Melitia. The picture in question is twenty-five feet high, and fourteen wide, displaying three principal groups. The first, at the lower part, represents the mariners and prisoners bringing on shore various articles which have been saved from the wreck; and near those, is an elegant figure, intended for a Roman lady of distinction, clasping, with fervor, an urn containing the ashes of her deceased husband, who had fallen in the wars in Judea. Before her is represented an aged infirm man, who, being unable to assist himself, is carried in the arms of two robust youths. In the centre of the painting, is the principal group, consisting of St. Paul shaking into the fire the viper that had fastened on his hand, those brethren who accompanied him, the friendly Centurian, and a band of Roman soldiers, bearing their proper insignia. The figures above these, on the summit of the rocks, form the third group, and consist of the hospitable islanders lowering down fuel and other necessaries, for the relief of the sufferers. The sea and the wrecked ship appear in the background, which combine to exhibit a scene that cannot fail of producing a proper effect on the minds of sea-faring men, and of impressing them with a due sense of their past preservation and present comfortable situation and support in this glorious

asylum for naval worth. On either side of the arch, which terminates the top of the picture, are angels of statuary marble, by Bacon, one bearing the cross, and the others, the emblem of the Eachanist, by Bacon. This excellent combination of works of art is terminated above, in the segment between the great cornice and ceiling, by a painting of the Ascension, from the pencil of Rebecca, in chiaro oscuro, forming the last in the series of paintings of the life of our Saviour that surround the chapel. The middle of the aisle, and the space round the organ gallery, are paved with black and white marble, in golochi frets, and other ornaments, having in the centre an anchor and seaman's compass. The pulpit is circular, supported by six fluted columns of lime tree, with an entablature above, richly carved, of the same materials. The inner columns display the following alto-relievos, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, executed after designs by West. The Conversion of St. Paul, Acts, ix.; Cornelius's Vision, chap. x.; Peter released from Prison by the Angel, chap. xii.; Elymas struck blind, chap. xiii.; St. Paul preaching at Athens, and converting Dionysius the Areopagite, chap. xvii.; and Paul pleading before Felix, chap. xxiv. The reader's desk is square, with columns at the four corners, surmounted by an entablature, similar to those of the pulpit; and in the four inner columns are alto-relievos of the prophets Daniel, Micah, Zachariah, and Malachi.

The following paintings, in chiaro oscuro, relative to our Saviour, are placed over the lower windows; the first four of the series are at the east end of the south side of the chapel, representing the Nativity: the Angel appearing to the shepherds; the Magi worshipping; and the flight into Egypt. The four which follow on the same side, are by Catton, and represent St. John baptizing; the callings of St. Peter and St. Andrew; our Saviour preaching from a ship to the people on shore; with the stilling of the tempest. The four at the west end of the north side are by Milburne, delineating Christ walking on the sea and saving Peter from sinking; the blind man cured by a touch; Lazarus raised from the dead; and the transfiguration. The next four, on the same side, are by Rebecca, and represent the Lord's supper; Christ before Pilate; the crucifixion; and resurrection. The Apostles and Evangelists in the recesses,

between the upper windows and the four prophets, in the circles above the gallery doors, are by the last-mentioned artist, after designs of West. On the sides of the gate, which open to these buildings from the park, are placed large terrestrial and celestial globes; and in the centre of the area, is a statue of George II.

The hall of this hospital is painted by Sir James Thornhill. The ceiling displays a very deep and large oval frame, in the centre of which King William and Queen Mary are represented seated on a throne, and surrounded by personifications of the cardinal virtues, the seasons, the four elements, the signs of the zodiac, and various other symbolical devices. At each end of the oval, the ceiling is raised in perspective, and exhibits a gallery with an elliptic arch, supported by groups of stone-coloured figures. These galleries display various appropriate naval embellishments, with the English rivers, and the arts and sciences relative to navigation. The sides of the hall are adorned with fluted pilasters and trophies; and in recesses on the north side, are allegorical figures, in chiaro oscuro, of the more liberal virtues, as hospitality, generosity, &c.

Within the last few years a portion of the funds of this magnificent institution has been appropriated for purchasing a gallery of paintings, illustrative of the great feats performed by the navy of England, as well as portraits of its gallant commanders. This laudable determination has been followed up with so much energy, that the number of paintings at present amounts to nearly 150, among which are not only works of our best modern artists, but also many specimens of the talents of painters long numbered with the illustrious dead.

From the money given to the persons who show the chapel and hall, a moderate allowance is granted to them, the remainder forming an excellent fund towards the maintenance of not less than 200 poor boys, sons of slain or disabled seamen, out of which fund they are entirely provided for, and taught such a portion of mathematical learning as fits them for sea service.

The number of pensioners in this noble hospital has gradually increased with the finances of the establishment, each having a weekly allowance of a loaf, weighing sixteen ounces, three pounds of beef, two of mutton, a pint of pease, a pound and a quarter of cheese, two ounces of butter, fourteen quarts

of beer, and 1s. for pocket money. The latter allowance, as regards the boatswain, has been increased to 2s. 6d. a week, and that of the mates, to 1s. 6d. Each common pensioner receives, once in two years, a suit of blue cloth, a hat, three pairs of stockings, three pairs of shoes, and four shirts. There are also 3000 out-pensioners, each of whom is supplied with £7 per annum.

Greenwich park contains about 188 acres, being walled round, and still continues vested in the crown. The park was laid out by Le Notre, in the reign of Charles II., and is planted chiefly with elms and Spanish chesnuts.

There were formerly two religious houses in Greenwich; Edward III., at the instance of Sir John Norbury, his treasurer, in the 51st year of his reign, A.D. 1376, founded a *religious house*, for the order of Minorites, or Franciscans, commonly called Grey Friars, which was made an alien priory, subject to the abbey of Ghent, in Flanders. But when Henry V. suppressed these alien establishments throughout England, that of Greenwich became involved in the general ruin, and the brothers were expelled.

Edward IV., perhaps by the persuasion of his sister, Margaret duchess of Burgundy, resolved to found a *religious house*, or *convent*, of the order of Observants, contiguous to his palace, and most probably on the very place of the former; and as the Observants were only a more reformed branch of the Minorites, that fact adds some weight to the conjecture. Though the king did not live to put the whole of this design in execution, nevertheless, about the year 1480, he granted them a residence here, with a little chantry, and chapel of the holy cross, for their devotions, which Pope Sixtus IV. gave them leave to accept. They remained in this state till Henry VII., in pursuance of the design of Edward IV., founded this religious house at the town of East Greenwich. Soon after which, he new built their house from the foundation which stood adjoining to the west side of the palace, where the road, we believe, still remains, known by the name of the Friar's road. Henry VIII. was at first a great admirer and favorer of these Observants, till they warmly espoused the cause of Queen Catherine, in regard to her divorce. The queen had always retained the highest opinion of the sanctity of those

friars, insomuch that she had one of them (father John Forest,) for her confessor, and was accustomed, while at Greenwich, to rise at midnight to divine offices, he being present, in the Franciscan chapel, during the time the friars were singing their matins and lauds. This opposition to the desire of the king enraged him so much, that from that time this fraternity were continually persecuted, and ultimately dispersed. Some died in prison, others were executed, under imputation of treason, and many forced to fly, till the whole body was completely reduced. In 1534, in his 26th year, the king caused this house to be dissolved; but after nearly twenty years' banishment, the few remaining Franciscans, on the accession of Queen Mary to the throne, again appeared in public, and returning to Greenwich, formed a community, when Philip and Mary, in 1555, new founded their monastery, in gratitude for the signal resolution they had evinced in supporting the cause of her mother. They did not, however, long enjoy the restoration, for Queen Elizabeth, in her 2d year, A.D. 1559, again suppressed this monastery, when the friars were compelled to fly to Flanders, Germany, and other parts beyond sea.

The several buildings of the convent were subsequently made use of as part of the royal palace, and so continued till in the *interregnum*, after the death of Charles I., when they were sold, with some other parts of this palace, in 1652, by the powers then in being, to Richard Babington. The premises reverting to the crown upon the Restoration, in 1660, continued part of the royal palace till King William, in the 6th year of his reign, gave them, with the rest of his palace, as an hospital for maimed and wounded seamen.

Among other charitable minor foundations at Greenwich, are two *hospitals* or *almshouses*, for poor people. The most ancient of these was founded by William Lambard, esq., author of the "Perambulation of Kent," and endowed by him, for the maintenance of twenty poor persons, either male or female. He called it "the College of Queen Elizabeth." Nearly £1300 in South Sea annuities, and some smaller benefactions, to the amount of £10 annually, have been given to this hospital since its foundation.

The second hospital, called *Norfolk College*, is situated at the east end of the town, and was founded, in 1618, by Henry

earl of Northampton, for the maintenance of twenty decayed old housekeepers, twelve out of Greenwich, and eight to be alternately chosen from Shottisham and Castle Rising, Norfolk. To this college a chapel is attached, in which is interred the body of the earl, which, as well as his monument, was removed hither, some years ago, from the chapel of Dover castle. Here is also a neat row of almshouses, erected in 1809, to commemorate the jubilee, or 50th year of the reign of George III.; and two houses have been added thereto by the volunteer infantry of Greenwich.

According to the returns, under the population Act, in 1811, Greenwich, with Deptford, then contained 5903 houses, and 36,780 inhabitants.

GREENWICH is in the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Dartford. The present church is a handsome modern structure of stone, which was completed in 1718.

The church of Greenwich was, from the earliest accounts, an appendage to the manor, and given by Elthruda, King Alfred's niece, to the abbey of Ghent; which grant was confirmed by archbishop Dunstan, by King Edgar in 964, and by Edward the Confessor in 1040. William the Conqueror again confirmed this grant to the abbey, as did several of his successors, particularly Henry I. The Parliament of Leicester, in the 2d of Henry V., suppressing all the alien priories, the possessions of the abbot of Ghent, and this church, as part of the same, became vested in the crown, where it only continued till the following year, when the king settling the manor of Greenwich on his new founded priory of Shene, this church also passed with the same.

Henry VIII. obtained the possession of this church from the priory of Shene, in exchange for other lands; since which, the advowson of Greenwich seems to have continued, without interruption, in the possession of the crown. The vicarage was valued in the king's books at £21, and the yearly tenths at £2 2. In the *Commission of Inquiry*, in 1650, it was returned that East Greenwich was a vicarage, with one house, an acre and one rood of glebe land.

The old church was dedicated to St. Alphege, archbishop of Canterbury, who was slain by the Danes, in 1011. It had,

from lapse of years, become so ruinous, that on the 28th of November, 1710, the roof fell in; soon after which, in the reign of Queen Anne, the commissioners under the Act for building new churches, began to erect the present edifice, which was consecrated by Dr. Francis Atterbury, bishop of Rochester. In this church it was insisted that the king had a right to a pew, which was agreed to by a vestry held for that purpose.

In the old church, among other tombs, was a monument of a man in armour kneeling at a desk, with eight sons behind him, and a woman, kneeling likewise, with the same number of daughters, commemorative of Francis Heiton, obiit 1600, aged thirty-eight: a monument, on the south side of the choir, for William Hatlecliff: in the chancel, a brass plate for Thomas Gallys, and Joan his wife: against the south wall, a brass plate, with the figures of a man and woman kneeling, for Anthony Lyle and his wife, he having been gentleman usher to Queen Elizabeth. Near the east wall was a monument for Anne Newton; one for Richard Bower, gent., of the chapel, and master of the children of Henry VIII.; another, with the figure of a man in the dress of the time, a chain of gold over his right shoulder, and a mace and crown, with the queen's supporters on his breast, for John Whytte, gent., one of the queen's footmen. Against the south wall formerly stood the monument of that learned antiquary, William Lambard, removed, as before mentioned, to Sevenoaks; also memorials, on stone, for the daughters of lord Sherrard, baron of Leitrim; with many more, too numerous for insertion.

In the new church there are no memorials, but at the east end, two mural monuments, one for Sir Henry Sanderson, obiit 1760, aged fifteen, son of Sir Henry Sanderson, bart. of Coombe, by Charlotte, his third wife, daughter of Sir Richard Gough, of Warwickshire, the last heir of his name and family; the other, for Sir Robert Robinson, obiit 1714, aged eighty-four, and his two wives. Here is also a tomb for Sir James Creed, of this parish, obiit 1762, aged sixty-seven, and Mary, his wife; several of his children also lying interred in a vault beneath.

In 1821 Greenwich and Deptford contained 6649 dwellings;

and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 20,053, females 20,521, making a total of 40,574 souls.

We cannot close the account of Greenwich district without noticing the beautiful church just completed, and standing in the park. It has been erected under the direction of George Smith, esq., architect of the Mercers' company, whose taste had been previously established by his superintendance of the new school of St. Paul's, and the beautiful Gothic pile of almshouses situated at Holloway. The church to which we refer is built after the chaste Gothic style, and calculated for the reception of 800 persons; the spire, with the battlement tower, is about 200 feet in altitude, forming bold a and conspicuous object to the surrounding country; the *tout-en-semble* of the fabric being in every respect calculated to increase the reputation of the designist.

Deptford, as far as lies within this county, is within the *hundred of Blackheath*, and was so named from the deep ford over the river Ravensborne, before the bridge was erected. It was generally known in ancient records by the denomination of *Deptford Strond*, otherwise West Greenwich, a name which, in later times, became solely appropriated to the lower parts, on the banks of the Thames, the upper town retaining that of Deptford only.

It lies almost four miles from London, on the north-west verge of the county, on the banks of the Thames, adjoining the county of Surrey, in which a small portion is situated. In the time of the Romans, it was little, if at all, inhabited, the tide, most probably, flowing at times over the greater part of the district, which probably caused the Roman way to be made southward, and not through Deptford, in the direct line to London, as at present. Deptford continued little more than a mean fishing village, notwithstanding its contiguity to the road, and approximation to the metropolis, till Henry VIII. first created a storehouse, and made the royal dock there, from which time it has continued to increase both in size and population.

The Royal dock, or King's yard, as it is locally called, in-

Drawn by T.M.Baynes. Engraved by W.Watkins.

NEW CHURCH BLACKHEATH.

KENT.

cludes an area of about thirty-one acres, occupied by various buildings; two wet docks (a double and a single one), three slips for men of war, a basin, two mast ponds, a model loft, mast houses, a large smith's shop, with about twenty forges for anchors, sheds for timber, &c. besides houses for the officers who superintend the works. Near the Royal dock is *Says court*, which formerly belonged to John Evelyn, esq., the celebrated natural philosopher, and author of "Sylva, or a Treatise on Forest Trees." The czar, Peter the Great, resided there for some time, where he completed his knowledge in the practical part of naval architecture. By an order from Queen Elizabeth, the ship Pelican, wherein Sir Francis Drake sailed round the globe, was laid up in the mast dock belonging to this yard. A chair was formed out of her remains, and presented to the university of Oxford; upon which occasion, the celebrated Cowley wrote the following lines:

"To this great ship, which round the world has run,
And matched, in race, the chariot of the sun,
This Pythagorean ship, (for it may claim,
Without presumption, so deserved a name,)
By knowledge once, and transformation now,
In her new shape this sacred port allow.
Drake and his ship cou'd not have wish'd from fate
A happier station, or more blessed estate;
For lo! a seat of endless rest is given
To her in Oxford, and to him in heaven."

Besides the Royal dockyard, there are several private docks in the neighbourhood of Deptford, which, from their extent, the many ships continually repairing and building therein, and the vast stores of timber and other necessaries laid up, would in some countries, be esteemed sufficient for the navy of a kingdom, though these latter are fully employed by the merchants and traders of Great Britain.

The VICTUALLING OFFICE, sometimes called the *Red house*, stands on the site of a large range of storehouses, built with red brick, which was consumed by fire in July 1639. The materials were so combustible, that nothing could be saved, and the loss was incredible. This building was again destroyed by fire in 1740. The immense pile which now forms the

Victualling office has been erected at different times since that period.

In 1515, a society was founded at Deptford by Sir Thomas Spert, knight, and incorporated by Henry VIII. The grant was made to the shipmen and mariners of this realm, whereby they were enabled to institute, to the honour of the *blessed Trinity* and St. Clement, a guild or brotherhood, perpetual, concerning the cunning and craft of mariners, and for the increase and augmentation of the ships thereof. The principal business of this society is to take cognizance of all sea marks, and to erect lighthouses upon the several coasts of the kingdom, for the security of navigation; to direct the replacing or repairing of such as may be removed or decayed; and to prosecute every person who wilfully and maliciously destroys or injures them. They are likewise to give the earliest possible notice of their proceedings in such matters, and of all alterations that are discovered respecting the depth of water upon the sea coasts, and every other circumstance which concerns the navigation within the channel. The cleansing of the Thames, and preventing and removing obstructions upon the river, are within their province. They supply the ships that sail from the river with such ballast as is taken out of the same to increase its depth; and also grant licence to poor seamen, not free of the city of London, to work on the river Thames. They have also the power of examining the mathematical children of Christ's hospital, and the masters of his majesty's ships. They appoint pilots, and settle the several rates of pilotage within their jurisdiction. In consideration of which weighty and necessary public duties, and that their ships and servants are to be at the call of his majesty, several immunities have been, from time to time, granted to the members of the *Trinity house*, more particularly, they are not liable to serve on juries, and all the brethren, their officers, and servants, are entitled to this exemption. The corporation consists of a master, deputy master, thirty-one elder brethren, and an unlimited number of inferior members.

The ancient hall in Deptford, at which the meetings of this society were formerly held, was taken down about the year 1787, and an elegant building erected for that purpose on

Tower hill, London. There are, however, two hospitals at Deptford, belonging to this corporation, both of which are commodious structures, and designed for the benefit of decayed pilots, masters of ships, or their widows, the men being allowed 30s., and the women 16s. per month.

Deptford ranked originally as one parochial district, the church of which was dedicated to St. Nicholas, a saint believed by our Saxon ancestors to be propitious to all seamen, merchants, and fishermen; many sacred edifices, therefore, found upon the sea-coast, adjoining great rivers, are placed under his protection, the present fabric of St. Nicholas having been erected in 1697.

There is no particular commissioner appointed for this yard, being under the immediate inspection of the navy board, which has depending upon it, in residence here, a clerk of the cheque and survey, a storekeeper, a master shipwright or builder, and other officers, clerks, and inferior servants, employed in their respective stations.

The high road from London to Dover crosses this parish, through the town of Upper Deptford, at the Broadway; southward of which the lands rise to the hills, being in general very poor and barren. Hence the parish extends farther southward, to Brockley farm, adjoining Lewisham, near which it is much covered with coppice wood.

New cross is now esteemed as the *western boundary* of this county, adjoining Surrey, into which county a great part of the parish of St. Paul, Deptford, extends; the high London road divides the northern route leading through Upper Deptford, and the southern one, over Loam-pit hill, towards Lewisham. It must here be observed, that the county of Kent formerly extended much farther westward than at present, having had the whole of what is now contained in St. Paul's parish formerly within its bounds, though at present the adjoining county of Surrey claims great part of it. The manor and seat of Hatcham, belonging to the Haberdashers' company, within this parish, though now esteemed to be within that county, is by most supposed to have been formerly in the county of Kent. However, the boundaries have been since altered, as the name of this place shews its situation close to the confines of both counties, the same as Kent hatch, in Westerham,

points out its situation at the very outskirts of this county, and several inquisitions taken since the time of Henry III., have found Hatcham to be in Kent. The manor of Bredinghurst, at Peckham Rye, near Camberwell, though now considered to be in Surrey, was formerly held to be in this county. The ancient roll of the barony of Maminot so mentions it, and part of the manor of Deptford Strond, now accounted wholly within Surrey, was, as late as the reign of Henry VIII., described as being in Kent. The reception of prisoners from one county to the other, for a long space of time, at New Cross, has most probably been the occasion of fixing the boundaries between them at this place; but this is certainly now fixed by erroneous custom, for, of right, those of this county should extend to a small bridge beyond Hatcham, in the road to London, near the way to Bredinghurst, which, by an inquisition taken in the 7th of Richard II., was then reckoned to be in Kent.

In the town of Upper Deptford there is a handsome stone bridge over the river Ravensborne, which here empties itself into the Thames. This river rises in Keston, a parish well known to the lovers of antiquity, from the remains of a Roman camp still to be traced there. Deptford bridge was rebuilt of stone, at the sole cost of Charles I., in 1628, but destroyed by a sudden flood after a succession of heavy rains, and has since been restored in a durable manner.

The inhabitants of Deptford are chiefly employed in the dockyards, or engaged in maritime pursuits, the number, including Greenwich, as returned by the population Act in 1811, was 36,780, and the number of dwellings 5903. An extensive manufacture of earthenware, called Deptford ware, is carried on at this place.

Near Deptford hill, leading to Blackheath, on the road to Dover, northward, are very extensive gravel and sand pits, and, being so near the metropolis, extremely profitable; among which, some years back, a range of subterraneous passages, since called the Caverns, were discovered.

In 1690, a Janus's head was found in the road to New Cross, near St. Thomas's watering place, one side of which represented the countenance of a man bearded, with the horns and ears of a ram, a jewel or ornament hanging down near them on

either side of the head, which was crowned with laurel. On the opposite side, was the countenance of a young woman, bearing ancient head attire, which, while it covered the head, projected considerably. It was entire, and seemed formerly to have been fixed to a square column, or in a terminus, and was a foot and a half high. This curiosity was subsequently deposited in the collection of the learned and curious Dr. Woodward.

Our botanists have taken notice of many rare plants growing in this part of Kent, so fruitful to the herbalist; and that ornament to our nation, Mr. Cowley, before he removed to Chertsey, frequently retired here, where every field and wood displayed the realities of which he read, and whence he composed his books of plants, herbs, and flowers.

Deptford was given by William the Conqueror to Gilbert de Magminot, one of his favorites, together with many other lands in different counties, consisting of twenty-four knights' fees, to hold of the castle of Dover *in capite*, by barony, by the performance of certain services, for the defence of that fortress, which, together, constituted the *barony of Magminot*. Gilbert de Magminot, or Maminot, as the name was afterwards spelt, fixed the site of his barony here, which was therefore subsequently esteemed *caput baroniæ*, or head of the barony, who erected a *castle*, as was usual in those days, every part of which has long since been buried in its own ruins, though some remains of stony foundations seem to point out its situation near Sayer's court, in Bromfield, on the bank of the Thames, near the mast dock. His grandson, Wakelin, died without issue in the 3d of Richard I., having been a good benefactor to the monks of Bermondsey, to whom, in 1157, he gave 10s. rent out of the mill at Deptford. On his death, his sister, Alice, became his coheir, and conveyed this place, with other inheritance, to her husband, Geffrey, second son of William de Saye, who granted this manor of *West Greenwich*, as it was then called, with the advowson of the church and its appurtenances, to the Knights Templars, in pure and perpetual alms.

His son, Geoffrey, regained possession of this property, by giving the Knights Templars that of Sadlescombe, in Sussex, in exchange. He ratified to the canons of Begham the

lands of Brocele, part of his barony, and the church of St. Nicholas, at Greenwich, which his father had given them. Geoffrey de Saye, last mentioned, being in arms against King John, with others of the barons, in the 17th year of that reign, his lands and fees lying in Kent and elsewhere, were given to Peter de Crohun; but after the death of that monarch, he was taken again into favor, and his lands restored in the 8th of Henry III.

William, his son, succeeded, and died in the 56th of Henry III., holding this manor *in capite*, by barony, and the repair of a fortress in Dover castle, called, from its possessors, Saye's tower. His son, of the same name, accounted at the Exchequer for twenty-seven fees of the honour of Magminot, that is, twenty-six of the old feoffment, and one of the new, which shews the large extent of his possessions. He died in the 23d of King Edward I., possessed of this manor, leaving Geoffrey his son and heir, who married Idonea, daughter of William de Leyborne, who survived him, and died possessed of it in the 15th of Edward II., leaving Geoffrey de Saye, their son, who, in the 8th of King Edward II., leaving also a son, Geoffrey, he obtained the king's charter for *free warren* in all his demesne lands in his lordships of Greenwich and Deptford, with view of frankpledge, and other privileges. He died in the 33d year of the same king, when William, his son and heir, and Maud, his wife, surviving, and three daughters, they subsequently became their brother's heirs.

William de Saye died in the 49th of Edward III., leaving John his son and heir, who died in his minority, and in ward to the king, in the 6th of Richard II., being then possessed of this manor; upon which, Elizabeth, his sister, became his heiress, who married, first, Sir John de Fallesley, and secondly, Sir William Heron, knight.

The family of Saye, from its long possession of this place, fixed the name of Saye's court on the mansion or site of this manor. They bore for their arms, quarterly, *Or and gules*, which bearing came to them from the Magminot's, and again from the Saye's to the Peckham's, Parrock's, and St. Nicholas', but the latter bore it only in chief.

Sir William Heron possessed this manor in right of his wife, in the 19th of Richard II., together with her, by the name of

Elizabeth lady Saye, and levied a fine with all their lands and manors in Kent, to the use of them and their heirs male of their bodies, with remainder to her own right heirs. Four years after she died, upon which, this manor devolved to Sir William Heron, in her right; and he died possessed of it in the 6th of Henry IV. Sir John, son of his brother, Sir John, succeeded to this inheritance, who also dying, it was found, by inquisition, that Sir William de Clinton, son of Idonea, another sister of William de Saye; Mary, wife of Otho de Worthington, a daughter likewise of another sister of the said William; and Roger de Fiennes, by Joan, also one of his sisters; were her heirs in remainder and next of kin. They, most probably, joined in the sale of the estate, for, in the 3d of Henry V., it was found that Sir John Philip and Alice, his wife, held the reversion of this manor, and that Sir William Philip was his son and heir.

William de la Pole, duke of Suffolk, at the time of his death, in the 28th of Henry VI., was possessed of the manor of West Greenwich, leaving John, his son, who, in the 3d of Edward IV., was restored to the title of duke of Suffolk, which had been void by the attainder of his father. His eldest son, John, seems to have had the property of this manor vested in him during the life of his father, and was by a special charter, in the 7th of Edward IV., in consequence of his near alliance in blood to the king, created earl of Lincoln; after which, he was highly favored by Richard III., and being so eminent a branch of the house of York, used his utmost endeavours to oppose the earl of Richmond from gaining the crown. But the army having been routed at Newark upon Trent, and himself slain, this manor passed to the crown, where it did not long remain, as Henry VII., the following year, granted it to Oliver St. John, who died possessed of it in the 14th year of the same prince, leaving it to his son, John St. John, who owned it at his death, in the 4th of Henry VIII. Before the 29th year of that king's reign, this manor seems to have again returned to the crown, when it was styled the King's *manor of Saye's court*, otherwise *West Greenwich*, and is mentioned together with his *manor and ville of Deptford Strond*, by which it appears that they were then *two distinct manors*, named as above. As to the latter, we find that Roger Mortimer, earl of

March, who was slain in Ireland in the 22d of Richard II., was found to die possessed of a certain site called Le Strond, in Greenwich, and seventy-three acres of land in Deptford Strond. His son, Edmund, the last earl of March, died under Henry VI. possessed of this site, called his manor of West Greenwich, otherwise the Strond. On his demise, without issue, Richard duke of York, son of Anne his sister, was found, by inquisition, to be his next heir, who died in the 3d of Edward IV., being possessed of the messuage and premises of Deptford Strond, and was succeeded by his son, Edward earl of March, afterwards Edward IV., when it consequently became vested in the crown. It was then esteemed to lie partly within this county, and the remainder in Surrey, within the parishes of Rotherhithe and Camberwell; but in the reign of Queen Mary, in 1555, it appears to have been considered as wholly in those parishes, in Surrey, owing probably to the change made in the boundaries of the two counties, and, as such, it is unnecessary to notice it further in this place, excepting that it is at present so called, and was in the possession of the Rev. Mr. Hambly.

But the *manor of Saye's court*, otherwise *West Greenwich*, situated within the parish of Deptford, in the county of Kent, (notwithstanding the site of it, called Saye's court, which was demised, as will be mentioned,) appears to have remained in the hands of the crown from the above period, during the greatest part of the reign of James I., and so continued at the death of Charles I., in 1648.

The *mansion of Saye's court* appears to have been previously granted, at the latter end of the reign of Elizabeth, for a term, to Sir Richard Browne, who died possessed of it in 1604. He was a younger son of an ancient family at Hitchin, in Hertfordshire, seated at Horsley, in Essex, and being taken into the service of the crown by Robert Dudley, the great earl of Leicester, went governor to the United Netherlands, and was afterwards, by Queen Elizabeth, made clerk of the Green Cloth. In that post he continued under King James, and left a son, Christopher Browne, esq., who died in 1645, and lies buried in this church. His only son and heir was Sir Richard Browne, gentleman of the privy chamber to Charles I., clerk of the counsel, and resident from that monarch and also

Charles II. at the court of France, till the Restoration. He had been created a baronet in 1649, and dying in 1683, was buried in this church. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Prettiman, of Driffield, in Gloucestershire, by whom he had an only daughter and heir, Mary.

The arms on Sir Richard Browne's monument, who died in 1605, are, quarterly, first and fourth, *Azure, a griffin passant or*, a chief of the second and third, *or, a chief sable.* But his grandson, Sir Robert Browne, bart., appears to have had an alteration granted to his arms, for in the British Museum is a warrant of Charles II., given at Castle Elizabeth, in the Isle of Jersey, 1649, to Sir Edward Walker, garter, to prepare a grant of an additional coat of arms, by way of augmentation, for Sir Richard Browne, bart., viz. *Or, a chief, sable, and a canton ermine*, to be borne before his paternal coat. This canton was afterwards omitted by patent, and Sir E. Walker certified in 1663, that the above augmentation, without the canton, was not, to his knowledge, borne by any family, nor extant in any book of visitation. After that, he bore for his arms, quarterly, first, *the above augmentation;* secondly, *Browne;* third, *argent, a fret gules;* fourth, *quarterly, indented or and gules*, for difference.

After the death of Charles I., the Parliament passed an ordinance to vest the royal estates in the hands of trustees, to be sold, to supply the exigencies of the state, by which survey it appeared that the quit-rents, due to the lord of this manor of Saye's court and Deptford le Strond, otherwise West Greenwich, from the freeholders, in free socage tenure, amounted to 118s. 1½d. yearly, and that the court-baron and court-leets were valued at 60s. That James I., in consideration of the services done by Christopher Browne, gent., above mentioned, as well as for the charges he had been at in repairing the mansion house of Saye's court, by letters patent, in his 8th year, had granted to him that house lying in Bromefield, in Deptford, with the orchard, garden, and closes, then in his possession; and sufficient hay and pasture for the keeping, feeding, and pasturing, twelve kine, one bull, and two horses, in winter and summer, upon the grounds at Saye's court, for forty years, without any rent. That King Charles had directed his privy seal to the trustees of his son, Charles prince of Wales, in

consequence of which, they granted, in his 10th year, the premises to him, for twenty-four years, to commence from the year 1651, being the expiration of the former lease. The premises were reported then to be in the possession of William Prettiman, gent., executor of Christopher, and guardian of Richard Browne, one of his grandchildren, to whom, by his will, he had bequeathed his interest therein, that the yearly value was £107, but there were annual reprises out of the same to the vicar of Deptford, in consideration of tithes, £12 and four loads of hay, valued together at £6. That he was likewise tenant of all the demesne lands, by lease from the commissioners of the public revenue, amounting to about 164 acres, at the yearly rental of £424 11 7¾.

The manor, with its appurtenances, and other premises in Greenwich and Deptford, were afterwards sold, by the trustees, to John Bachsted, Ralph Cobbet, and others, and the manor house to William Somerfield. In that state they continued till the Restoration, in 1660, when the manor, and those demesnes undemised by the crown, returned to the royal revenue, part of which the manor itself continues at this time. A court-leet and court-baron is still held for this property.

SAYE'S COURT, however, by virtue of the above-mentioned leases, returned to the heir of Mr. Christopher Browne, in the person of Sir Richard Browne, bart., his only son, whose sole daughter and heir, Mary, having, in 1647, married John Evelyn, esq., before mentioned, she brought him her father's interest in this seat, as part of her inheritance. Charles II., under the great seal, in his 15th year, granted to the above-mentioned John Evelyn his capital messuage, or site of the manor of Saye's court, with its appurtenances, in Deptford, and lands belonging thereto, for the term of ninety-nine years, at the annual rent of 22s. This Mr. John Evelyn was a most learned and ingenious gentleman, second son of Richard Evelyn, esq. of Wotton, in Surrey, and succeeded as heir to his elder brother, George, who died without issue, to the seat and estate at Wotton, which continued the family residence of his descendants. He died at London, in 1706, and was interred at Wotton, leaving one son, John, and a daughter, Susan, married to William Draper, esq. of Adge court, in Surrey.

The *family of the Evelyn's* came originally from Evelyn, near Tower Castle, in Shropshire, whence it removed into Surrey some ages past, together with the Onslow's and Hatton's, from estates and seats of those names. There are some of this name both in France and Italy, written Ivelyn and Avelyn, and in old deeds, Avelyn, otherwise Evelyn; one, under the latter denomination, was taken prisoner at the battle of Agincourt.

John Evelyn, esq., only remaining son of John, as before mentioned, was the author, as previously observed, of the Sylva, and several other works, and married Martha, daughter and coheir of Richard Spencer, esq. He died during the lifetime of his father, in 1690, leaving one son, John, and a daughter, Elizabeth, married to the Hon. Simon Harcourt. John, his son, by the will of his grandfather, became possessed of both the terms in Saye's court and the other premises in Deptford, granted by King Charles II. In July 1713, he was created a baronet, being also fellow of the Royal Society, of which his grandfather had been a principal promoter and benefactor.

King George I., in his 10th year, granted the freehold of this estate (an Act having passed for that purpose,) to Francis earl of Godolphin and Hugh viscount Falmouth, in trust, for Sir John Evelyn and his heirs, for ever, on paying the yearly rent of £1 2 6, at a quit-rent, besides a valuable consideration to the crown for the same. He married Anne, sister of Hugh, late viscount Falmouth, and dying in 1763, left the possession of Saye's court to his son, Sir John Evelyn, bart., who died in 1767, on which this estate descended to his only son, Sir Frederic Evelyn, bart., of Wotton, in Surrey. The Evelyn's bear for their coat armour, *Azure, a griffin passant and chief or.*

In this house, as previously observed, Peter the Great, czar of Muscovy, resided for some time, in 1698, when he, in Deptford yard, acquired his skill and knowledge in naval architecture.

Brockley is a place situated partly in this parish and that of Lewisham. It was once accounted a manor, and granted, with its appurtenances, by the last Wakelyn de Maminot, about the latter end of the reign of Henry II., to Michael de Turnham, to hold by the yearly rent of 12d., in lieu of all service, for which grant, Michael became his fedatory tenant, and paid him 40s. Michael de Turnham afterwards sold his land of Brocele, as his *free gavelkinde* and stockinkinde, to the countess

Juliana, wife of Wakelin, above mentioned, in order that she might found a religious house here, Stephen de Turnham, his nephew, having consented to the same. The religious of the Premonstratensian order, who were first settled at Ottham, in Sussex, by Ralph de Dene, finding that place very inconvenient, resolved to quit the site for one more suitable, and in all likelihood it was to that fraternity the countess Juliana and Michael de Turnham gave this place, in pure and perpetual alms, for an habitation; which gift was confirmed by Jeffrey de Saye, the land being part of his barony. But they did not long remain here, for Robert de Turnham, nephew of Michael, gave them an estate at Bogham, in Sussex, to which they soon removed, with the consent of Ela de Sackville, daughter of Ralph de Dene, and he confirmed to them his land at Brockley, in pure and perpetual alms, to hold of Jeffrey de Saye and his heirs, paying him the accustomed rent, in lieu of all service and secular exaction; which gift was confirmed by his brother, Stephen de Turnham. King John, in his 9th year, confirmed the land of Brokele to the abbot and convent of Beyham; and Edward III., in his 2d year, granted them *free warren* in their lands at Brokele.

This estate so remained vested till the dissolution of their abbey, in the 17th of Henry VIII., when, having been one of those smaller monasteries which Cardinal Wolsey obtained of the king for the endowment of his colleges, the institution was settled by that cardinal on his new foundation, called Cardinal's college, in Oxford, where it remained but four years, as, upon the disgrace of that prelate, in 1529, all the estates of this foundation became forfeited to the king, and continued in the hands of the crown till 1532, excepting such as were solicited from time to time by the insatiate courtiers of that tyrannic and fickle monarch.

The portion of this estate lying in Lewisham is now called Forest place, otherwise Brockley farm. The other part situated in the parish of Deptford, was granted by Queen Elizabeth, in her 10th year, by the description of the site and messuage of the manor of Brockhill, to Philip Conway. This is now denominated Hither or Upper Brockley farm, being situated near New cross, in the parish of St. Paul's, Deptford. It was for some generations in the family of the Wickham's, of Garsing-

ton, in Oxfordshire, also possessed of a considerable estate both in this parish and that of St. Nicholas, Deptford, all which, by two female heirs of that name, passed in marriage to Thomas Drake Tyrwhitt, esq. and the Rev. Dr. John Drake, the two younger sons of William Drake, esq. late of Amersham, in the county of Buckinghamshire, who, in right of their respective wives, possessed the same.

There is an old house in Deptford, commonly called the Moated place, or Stone house, or King John's house, from the supposition that it was built by that prince, but with what truth we know not. It has, however, at different times been the residence of the kings of England; Edward III. frequently dwelt there, and Henry IV. is said to have resided there while undergoing a cure for the leprosy. This house remained vested in the crown at the death of Charles I., in 1648, on whose demise it devolved to the Parliamentary trustees, and was by their surveyor certified to be in the county of Surrey, which precludes any further notice of it here.

In the 38th of Henry VIII., Thomas Bassingburne held, *in capite*, a messuage and dovecote, called Skinner's place, with its appurtenances, in the parish of Deptford Strond, otherwise West Greenwich, being parcel of the possessions of Thomas Becket's hospital, within the borough of Southwark. Richard Stonely afterwards held Skinner's place, but in the 10th of Elizabeth, the lady Anne Parry possessed that property.

In the 3d of Edward VI., there was a decree in the court of Augmentation concerning *the hermitage* in Deptford, which we find was in being in the 4th of Henry IV. Edward VI., in his 6th year, granted to Edward lord Clinton and Saye lands in this parish, parcel of the guild of our lady of Rounceval.

Captain Richard Maples, who died commanding a ship in the East Indies, in 1680, left to the Trinity house £1300, with which a part of the almshouses was built.

DEPTFORD, as far as lies within the county of Kent, is in the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Dartford.

Some years back a second church was built, when the district was divided into *two distinct parishes*, now known by the names of St. Nicholas's parish (the old church having comprehended all Deptford,) and St. Paul's parish the modern church, to

which was apportioned a district derived from the former parish of St. Nicholas. The church of St. Nicholas, of West Greenwich, otherwise Deptford, was given by Juliana de Vere, widow of Hugh Bigod, and wife of Wakelin de Maminot, lord of this place, to the religious institution then existing at Brockley, in this parish; which gift was afterwards confirmed by Jeffrey de Saye and Alice his wife, sister of Wakelin, before mentioned, who conveyed this inheritance to her husband. Soon after, most probably in consequence of their removal to Bogham, in Sussex, the patronage of this church again returned to Jeffrey de Saye, who granted it to the Knights Templars, in pure and perpetual alms. His son, Jeffrey, regained possession of the same, in exchange for other lands, and by his deed gave it to the canons at Begham.

Gualeranus, bishop of Rochester, about the year 1183, appropriated this church to the abbot and convent of Begham, which was confirmed, as well by Pope Honorius III., as the cardinal legate, and several of the bishops of Rochester. By an ancient valuation, taken in the 15th of Edward I., this church was estimated at fifteen marks, and the vicarage at six marks and a half.

The church remained with this abbey till its final dissolution, in the 17th of Henry VIII.

Queen Elizabeth, by letters patent, in her 10th year, granted the church of West Greenwich to Philip Conway; the rent reserved to the crown in the grants of this rectory being £5 6 8. It was, during the usurpation, granted in fee, under the above rent, to Edmund Downing and Peter Aston.

The vicarage of St. Nicholas is valued in the king's books at £12 17 3½, and the yearly tenths at £1 5 8½.

The *advowson* appears to have remained in the crown from 1529, uninterrupted, till the death of Charles I., in 1648. Soon after which, upon the *Commission of Inquiry* into the value of church livings, it was returned upon oath that Deptford was a vicarage, with a house and five acres of glebe land, worth £60 per annum. The presentation afterwards became vested in the family of Wickham, of Garsington, which continued to possess it for many years, having also owned the parsonage or great tithes of Deptford, so far as lay within the county of Kent. The advowson and parsonage were carried by two female heirs,

as before mentioned, in marriage to Thomas Drake Tyrwhitt, esq. and the Rev. Dr. Drake, of Amersham, in Buckinghamshire; but the parsonage or great tithes of that part of Deptford lying within the county of Surrey, which had been for some time in the family of the Bowyer's, of the county of Somerset, passed, by the will of one of that line, as well as descent, into the name of Windham, of Suffolk, where they continued.

The tower of the church of St. Nicholas seems very ancient; in 1780 the fabric was repaired, and the great bell new cast, the appearance of the rest of the building looked unsightly, having been a medley of stones and brick, being Gothic and modern, of different periods; but the interior was uniform and handsome. The chancel was small, railed off from the church, and richly ornamented with carvings and paintings, one of Queen Anne, hanging on the right side of the altar.

In 1630, the number of inhabitants being greatly increased, it was found necessary to new build another aisle on the north side, to which the East India Company were considerable benefactors; the chancel was also enlarged and beautified, partly at the expense of Sir William Russell, treasurer of the navy; but the church being too small, as the parish became more populous, and also requiring much repair, it was determined to rebuild the whole, when the edifice was begun, and finished in 1697; at which period, a handsome organ was erected, at the cost of different persons. The greatest benefactor towards this edifice was Isaac Loader, esq., a generous inhabitant of the parish, who contributed upwards of £900 towards the erecting and ornamenting the church, wherein he lies buried.

Notwithstanding so much care and expense, the church was still found inadequate to contain the inhabitants of this extensive and populous parish, wherefore the parishioners were induced to petition Parliament for the erecting a new church in some other part of the parish, by public bounty, under the Acts of Parliament for the rearing fifty new churches in or near London and Westminster. A *new structure* was accordingly raised, being a beautiful stone building, with a lofty spire, which, when finished, was dedicated to St. Paul, and consecrated on the 30th of June, 1730, by Edmund, lord bishop of London, and an Act passed for providing a maintenance for

the minister of the church lately built in the parish of St. Nicholas, and for constituting the same a distinct parish. In the above-mentioned Act the sum of £3500 was settled for the minister's maintenance, the king being appointed to present to the first vacancy, and the patrons of the old church in future, Dr. Norton, then minister of the old church, continuing rector of the new edifice. The rector of St. Paul's, Deptford, has no right to any tithes whatsoever, the vicarial tithes of all Deptford being reserved by the Act to the vicar of St. Nicholas, and the great tithes continuing a lay impropriation. What is remarkable in the above Act is, that out of 2000 acres of land, which Deptford comprised, nearly 1970 acres were taken into the new parish of St. Paul's, added to which, four acres of glebe were taken from the old parish, and given to the churchwardens for the time being, of the new parish, who pay the annual sum of £70, as a further maintenance to the rector, over and above the £3500 allotted by the Act, the same being vested in the old South Sea Annuities for that purpose. The result of such an unequal division of land is, that while the parish of St. Paul maintains its poor, at a mediocre assessment, that of St. Nicholas seldom maintains its paupers at less than double the amount. This being a new church, is consequently not in charge in the king's books. There is a handsome house for the rector.

In the church of St. Nicholas, among other monuments and memorials, the whole of which are far too numerous to insert, is a tomb, in the *south aisle*, for John Hughes, A. M. of Jesus college, Cambridge; another for Mrs. Mary Gransden, a benefactor to the poor of this parish; and near the above a vault, lies Isaac Loader, esq. In the east cross aisle a monument for Peter Pett, esq., another for R. Evelyn, and Mary, eldest daughter of John Evelyn. A memento for the family of the Browne's, of Saye's court; in the north aisle a monument for John, eldest son of Admiral John Benbow, and in the middle aisle another for Catherine, wife of Captain F. Wivell. In the great chancel is a tomb for G. Shelvocke, secretary to the General Post office; and memorials for R. Boyle, eldest son of Richard, earl of Cork; E. Fenton, esq.; and William Hawkyns, esq. of Plymouth. Throughout the church are

Drawn by T. M. Baynes.

Engraved by H. Wallis.

LICENSED VICTUALLERS ASYLUM,

KENT ROAD, NEAR LONDON.

monuments and memorials of the principal officers of the dock-yard, and their families, as well as captains of the royal navy' &c. Within the windows of the chancel, above the altar-piece, is a small oval, representing the nativity of Christ, finely executed in coloured glass; in the third window, on the south side, are the following arms, first coat, *Argent, three castles, quarterly,* A.D. 1698; second coat, *Or, six mullets, sable;* the arms of the Lowden's, A.D. 1698; in the second, first coat quarterly, *parted per pale, argent and sable, a chevron between three martlets, countercharged; second, sable, a besant, between three eagles' heads, erased, or, a chief indented ermine;* third, as the second, fourth as the first, over all *an escutcheon of pretence, sable, a fess between two chevrons, ermine in chief, a covered cup, or,* A.D. 1698. For the Turner's, second coat, quarterly, first, *Argent, on a bend, quarterly, three escalops, or;* secondly, quarterly *indented, or,* and quarterly in the *dexter* quarter a *cross lozengy*; third, *sable, a lion rampant, or*; fourth, as the first, impaling *sable, a fess dancette or in chief, three fleurs de lis, argent.* Over the door of the charnel house, in the churchyard, is a good piece of sculpture in stone, representing the resurrection.

In the church of St. Paul, on the south side of the chancel, is a sumptuous monument for Matthew Finch, gent. of this parish, obiit 1745, and for Mr. Benjamin Finch, his brother. On the north side a beautiful tomb, with an urn of Sicilian marble, for Mary, daughter of Benjamin and Sarah Finch, wife of Richard Hanwell, gent. of the city of Oxford, obiit 1754, aged twenty-five. Arms, Finch impaling Hanwell.

In the last general census of the population taken by order of Parliament in 1821, the towns of Deptford and Greenwich, as previously mentioned under the head of the latter place, are enumerated together, the numbers standing as follow; dwellings 6649, males 20053, females 20521, making a total of 40574 souls.

Licensed Victualler's Asylum. In the progress of the designs made for this history, one of the artists executed a drawing of the above institution, which was engraved, and found its way into the work. As, however, the building in

question does not stand within the confines of Kent, we deem it necessary to notice the fact, but, as occupying a site on the very verge of the county, we conceive a description of the same may be deemed admissible by the reader.

The charity in question reflects the highest credit on the founders, the undertaking having been decided upon on the 22d of February, 1827. The structure stands a little removed from the high road leading to Deptford, and presents a very handsome frontage, having a colonnade in the centre. It now affords an asylum for forty-three indigent victuallers' families, but, when completed, will present two handsome additional wings, the whole calculated to accommodate 101 families. The architect employed was Henry Rose, esq. of Guilford street in the Borough, the original contract having been £8180. The spot occupied by the erection, with the surrounding pleasure-ground, (the whole of which is freehold,) cost £600.

We subjoin the following, being the address to a pamphlet printed by the governors and committee of this praiseworthy undertaking, as best calculated to explain the nature of the institution.

"Amongst the numerous charitable institutions for which this country is distinguished, "THE FRIENDLY SOCIETY OF LICENSED VICTUALLERS" holds a deservedly eminent situation, not only for the fostering care and anxious solicitude it manifests in protecting and providing for the children of the deceased and distressed members, but as well for the assistance and relief it affords to members and their families, who fall into distress, and for the permanent provision it makes for those who, advanced in age, and under infirmity, are rendered incapable of providing for themselves."

"Notwithstanding this excellent society has been many years established, and its benefits widely diffused, so great is the extent of human misery exhibited in the numerous claims upon its bounties, that it became a paramount duty to provide an ASYLUM, where aged and infirm Licensed Victuallers, when reduced from a state of comfort to misery and want, may be enabled to pass the evening of life in humble but respectable retirement, cheered by the consoling reflection of being res-

cued from the miseries of a parish poor house,—that sole asylum afforded by the laws of England to general indigence.

"To effect this desirable object, the formation of the LICENSED VICTUALLERS' ASYLUM arose, and though the present state of the funds enables the governors to provide a *residence* only for its inmates, yet, as it is imagined that the sympathies of *every Licensed Victualler*, and those connected with his business, will become the advocates of such an institution, the governors confidently expect to be able to ameliorate the condition of those who are compelled to avail themselves of the bounty of the institution, by providing them with comforts essential to the complete enjoyment of such a situation."

THE WEALD.

In the progress of this History we have had occasion to describe the district of Romney Marsh; there is, however, another portion of Kent particularly deserving notice, namely the Weald, in former times comprising an immense tract of waste desart and wilderness, uninhabited, and like a forest stored with deer and droves of swine; in proof of which, among the ancient donations to the churches of Canterbury and Rochester, bearing reference to the Weald, mention is frequently made of the pannage for hogs in those parts, and nothing besides. In ancient rentals, also, speaking of the tenantry inhabiting the wealdy country, nothing but *the rent* is set down, without showing for what ancient service, manner of custom, or special cause, the same grew payable, as is elsewhere set down. Hence it is presumable, that when the Weald was originally made to belong to certain specific owners, it was not allotted into tenancies, nor measured like the rest, but as the men were satisfied to inhabit the same, and gradually clear away the wood, and convert the soil into tillage.

The tract in question was called in Saxon Weald, signifying *a woody country;* by the Britons it was denominated *Coit Andred,* from its immense extent, whence the Saxons gave it the second title of *Andredesleaz,* in Latin *Saltus Andred, or the great chace or forest.*

Opinions widely differ respecting the original limits of this woody district, some historians conceiving that it commenced at one place, and other writers at another, which uncertainty originates in the Weald having from time to time been diminished, through the efforts of industry, so that at the present day it is wholly peopled, and covered by towns, villages, &c. and on that account, says Mr. Hasted, it may more reasonably be maintained that there exists no Weald at all, than to ascertain where it ought to begin or end.

Notwithstanding the immense period that has elapsed since

the Weald existed, there are however certain privileges still connected with the lands stated as having constituted part of the same, which induce the proprietors to contend strenuously for their being within its limits. Among such privileges are the non-payment of tythes for wood to the parson; the not being amenable to the statute of woods; neither has the lord waste within the Weald, the timber growing thereon belonging to the tenant, which exclusion of the lord from the waste is called *land peerage.*

The supposition is, that the Weald formerly extended much farther than it is supposed to do in the present day, and that it originally commenced at Winchelsea, in Sussex, and occupied 120 miles in extent, and thirty in breadth; it is, however, at present restricted to far more circumscribed limits, being estimated as follow.

The Weald, to the west, bounds on Surrey; southward on Sussex; commencing, on the north, at Surrey; the boundaries are by the hill whereon Well street stands; thence to the summit of Idehill, Riverhill, the hill above Fair lane, and thence to Herst hill. From the latter spot it reaches to the top of the hill above Watringbury, then to Teston, where the Medway flows; eastward, however, the hill commences anew, running above Burston, and thence to the summit of the hills above Linton, Boughton, Chart Sutton, Town Sutton, and Ulcombe. It then extends to the same eminence at Boughton Malherbe, where the mansion of Sir Horace Mann stands, the hill there breaking the bounds, then extending eastward by the churches of Egerton, Pluckley, Great Chart, and Kingsnoth. From the last-mentioned place it extends to the hill on the skirt of Romney Marsh, below Orlestone, near Ham, and thence by Warehorne church, including the same; then by the declivity of the hill below Kednardington church, to Apledore, and so down the stream to the county of Sussex. It may be worthy of notice, that where parishes extend into the Weald district, and their churches stand above the hill, the lands of such parishes bear the twofold appellations of Upland and Weald; thus there is Sevenoke Upland, and Sevenoke Weald; Sundridge Upland, Sundridge Weald, &c.

The Weald, contemplated from the hills adjacent, exhibits the most delightful scene imaginable, presenting an extensive

level country, covered with the combined luxuriance of nature and art, variegated by mansions, seats, and villages, interspersed among the stately growth of venerable oaks growing over the whole surface of the soil, presenting, at the present day, the appearance of a richly cultivated and luxuriant forest.

Lambarde, speaking of this tract, says that, "the soil is in general soft under foot, mostly clay, and abounding in marle, which softness enables the labourer to perform his husbandry business with unshod oxen." There exist, however, other species of soils in the Weald, namely, about Tenterden and Cranbrook, sand; about East Peckham, and part of Hadlow, gravel; while at Bethersden there is much broadstone, commonly called *Bethersden marble,* and in those parts adjoining to Sussex, plenty of iron mines. The pasturages are remarkably rich, whence are produced the finest cattle for the London markets. The soil of the Weald is particularly favorable to the growth of the oak, which acquires an immense size, one having been felled, many years back, in Penshurst park, that produced twenty-one tons of timber, or 840 feet. Every enclosure throughout the Weald is environed by these trees, that equally abound in the woods and coppices, which, though constantly affording supplies of timber for the navy, still appear to be inexhaustible.

This forest, originally filled with herds of deer and swine, belonged wholly to the king, as no mention is made of it but in royal grants and donations. Thence it acquired the appellation of *Saltus regalis; Sylva communis, &c.* neither does it appear to have been parcelled out into parishes or manors until after the Norman conquest, as no mention is made in Domesday record of any independent manors having existed in the Weald, and much less was it made use of under the Romans, who were most probably kept from its precincts by the thickness of the forest, and depth of the soil. In royal donations of lands out of the Weald, frequent mention occurs of pannage for hogs in *Andredesweald;* wherefore, if a *prædium* or possession was accorded to any one out of the Weald, in the nature of what we term a manor or lordship, it was customary to add the grant of a common of pannage in the Weald, with a limitation to such particular part, which portions were

denominated *dens*, *denberies*, or *Wealdberies*, having had particular names assigned to them. Thus, by degrees, the Weald having been portioned out, acquired certain owners, who, in process of time, cultivated their parts, and rendered them conformable with the residue of the country. In due course the tenants of such lands became liable to the lord of whom they were held, for services and customs, such as fealty, suit of court, reliefs, and other local services and customs. In proof of this, under Edward III. and Richard II. the archbishop of Canterbury, and the prior of Christ church, finding themselves aggrieved by their tenantry in the Weald, who had made havoc of their woods, the same having been reserved to themselves, entered into a composition with their tenantry for a new annual rent of assize, and made the wood over to them by indenture of feoffment in perpetuity, either to be felled or left standing, as the tenant chose, still reserving their old accustomed rental and services, except what on parting with their wood was unreasonable to require, *pannage* and *danger*, since which the interest of the lord so compounding has been taken off in regard to the wood itself, and nothing left remaining but so much rent of assize, the new and the old, with the former services, as previously noticed.

The possessions of the inhabitants were first distinguished by the titles of *knight's fee* and *gavelkind*, or the tenure of knight's service and socage, the former appertaining to the soldier, the latter to the husbandman. This socage tenure of gavelkind has now so completely swallowed up the knight's service, that all lands within the county are deemed as holding of the same, except it is particularly proved otherwise, a circumstance of rare occurrence.

The number of freeholds throughout Kent is computed at 9000, which is somewhat surprising, if we take into consideration the vast possessions of the two episcopal dioceses of the cathedrals of Canterbury and Rochester, and several of the colleges of Oxford and Cambridge, as well as other corporate bodies possessing claims at a rack-rent, computed at upwards of £80,000 per annum, independent of parsonages and portions of tithes.

Under the Saxon heptarchy the lands of the realm were computed by *hides*, and in an ancient schedule, Kent, therein

written *Cantwarena*, is estimated as containing 15,000 hides. Many conjectures have been made as to the signification of the term *hide*, some esteeming it a particular portion of land comprising 100 acres; others conceive it to mean *carucata*, a plough land; while a third supposition is, that this expression refers to a family or dwelling, with the lands appertaining thereto, in the nature of a manor; which last opinion seems best calculated for the above estimation, according to Hasted.

It has been computed that Kent contains 1,248,000 acres, 70,507 dwellings, 85,939 families, whereof 30,869 are chiefly employed in agricultural pursuits, 30,180 in trades and manufactures, which, with 24,890 families not comprised in the two preceding classes, make a total of 209,833 males, 216,183 females, forming a total of 426,016 souls.

Under Elizabeth, A.D. 1574 and 1575, the muster taken in Kent amounted to 8960 able-bodied men, 6000 armed men, 780 selected men, 800 artificers and pioneers, 15 demi-lancers, and 787 light horsemen.

Prior to the embodying a militia, there was by the Act of the 12th Charles II., the sum of £70,000 raised monthly on the counties of England and Wales, for furnishing ammunition, &c. of which amount Kent paid £3655 11 2, being more than any other county, with the exception of Suffolk, which proved equal, and London, that yielded £4666 13 4.

On the return of the militia, this county furnished 16,757 able-bodied men for West Kent, and 9164 for East Kent, making a total of 25,921 men. The proportion of militia men therefore allotted by Parliament for this county was, for West Kent, 621; for East Kent, including Canterbury, 339; making a total of 960 men. Those residing in the Cinque Ports and their members were omitted, as well as seamen and persons employed in the dockyards, clergymen, and such as are excepted from the service by the militia laws.

FEUDAL TENURES.

All property throughout England is derived from her kings, as originally all lands were vested in the crown; but the princes being anxious to recompense their nobles and great

men for services, granted them portions of land, which the Saxons termed *hida, familia, mansura, mansum, casuta*, &c. By the monarchs they were empowered to exercise certain jurisdictions, on performing services, and paying yearly rents, as their grants required; and where the privileges of *sac, soc, tol,* and *theam,* &c. were conferred with land, it was, by the Saxons, termed *prædium* or *villa,* the lords thereof exercising jurisdiction within the precints in his own court appertaining to the same, which is now called a court-baron.

Subsequent to the battle of Hastings, William seized all the lands, which he distributed among his Norman followers, in consideration of their military services; at the same time he exercised the greatest cruelties on the native English, numbers being expulsed from their possessions, who were forced to seek refuge in the forests, living like savages, and reduced to such misery and servitude, that it was deemed disgraceful to bear the name of an Englishman. The possessions of all those who fought at the battle of Hastings, and the heirs of such as died there, were deprived of their lands, and deemed fortunate if they escaped with life. Such, however, as had not taken arms, subsequently obtained some favor from their new Norman lords, though for a period without hope that their offspring would succeed therein. At length the sons were permitted to hold their possessions at the pleasure of their lord; which was accorded by agreement for merit and services, and not by lineal descent, as they were proscribed from challenging any thing. The Conqueror also erected castles in various parts, and, under pretence of preventing tumults, disarmed the natives, causing a bell to be rung in every parish at eight o'clock in the evening, thence denominated *coverfeu,* now called *curfew,* at the sound of which every man was to extinguish his fire and go to rest. He, moreover, so humiliated the English, that they gladly imitated the Normans in the mode of cutting their hair and shaving; being also obliged to conform to the taste of their despotic masters in their cups and cooking.

The Saxons obtained the original of their jurisdictions from the grants of their princes, whereas the Normans had their manors from the feudal law. By introducing the feudal system, William became possessed of a powerful army for the de-

fence of his newly acquired realm, the same having consisted of 60,000 men. This national militia was composed of barons, knights, and gentlemen, bound by their honour, their interest, and their oaths, to defend the king and their country, under whom the rest of his lay subjects were employed in tillage and domestic avocations; for there existed two descriptions of laymen, the military and the husbandmen. Hence it occurred, that while the former was summoned abroad on military service, the latter remained at home and performed his duty and services in the cultivation of his lands, &c.

Those powerful Norman lords had such vast grants, that they comprehended the major part, and sometimes an entire county, for which they performed certain services. Being therefore held directly of the crown, and not of any mediate castle, honour, or manor, they were called *tenures in capite*, the most free and honourable of all possessions.

Lands so holden were, by the Saxons, termed *thain land*, and their holders, *thain majores* and *thain regis;* and by the Normans, *barons* and *baronies*. The service of such tenants of majesty was to attend him in his wars, according to the number of knights' fees they held, or doing some honourable service to the king in person, as bearing his sword, banner, &c. or acting as his butler, champion, &c., which occupations were called *sergeantry*, being a species of knight's service, equally with the former.

Lands were also held *in socage*, as of the crown, or *in capite*, as well as by knightly service. The vast extent of such grants compelled the *tenants in capite*, after reserving a territory round their castles, to form other manors, held by *mesne tenants*, by the service of a certain number of knights' fees, as stipulated by the chief lord; which inferior manors were again parcelled off into smaller, held by the *mesne lord*, by services in like manner. The last mentioned were occupied by the lowest order of tenants, called *tenant paravail*, as being supposed to avail themselves of the profits arising from the soil, being held of the *mesne lord* for the acres they possessed, either by knight's service, in free socage, or by copy of court roll. In this manner were the lands throughout England held that were possessed by the subjects, the manors and lordships being parcelled out as follow:

First, the chief lord reserved the best part for his own use, called *terra dominicalis* or *demesne land;* he then, in order to render his establishment complete, granted distinct portions of his lands to trusty vassals, for their aid in war, either by the finding a horse and arms, &c. or accompanying him, when he attended the king, in person, or sending an efficient man in his place, to be maintained at his own cost, for the number of days agreed upon between the lord and his principal tenant, on the grant of the fee, the days being reckoned according to the quantum of land so holden.

To the above were added homage, fealty, wardship, marriage, relief, and escheat, which tenure was denominated knight's service, and the holding thereof a knight's fee. If the same was insufficient for hiring one soldier, such part was contributed towards the lord's military expenses, or service, being only performed during part of the time, which was called holding the premises by a half, third, or fourth of one knight's fee. This, under the Conqueror, was stated at £20 per annum, the quantum of land differing according to its quality, a certain number of which fees were required to constitute a barony.

Another portion of the manor was by the chief lord distributed to men performing rustic and servile works to his castle, mansion, or lands, such as ploughing, sewing, reaping, &c. in the proportion of thirty, forty, or sixty, acres of land each. Another part he allotted to such as furnished provisions, namely, capons, hens, corn, flowers, &c. or else with apparel, as spurs, gloves, &c. or the payment of a certain rent, to be sworn his faithful tenant. All these tenures not being military, long since turned into money or quit-rents, were called *tenures in socage.* Tenants in socage paid a relief certain, to which is sometimes added a *heriot,* according to the custom of the manor, on death or alienation, not as in the case of knight's service, but one or more year's rent, no other wardship or other profit accruing to the lord.

The residue of the lands of the manor was manured by the peasantry or bondsmen, the lord appointing the mode whereby it was held at the courts of his manor, entering the same on the rolls, though possessing the power of taking it away at pleasure, and they were consequently called *tenants at will by copy of court roll.* Such persons originally bondsmen, but hav-

ing by degrees obtained freedom, were called *copyholders*, some holding for one, two, or three lives, and others from heir to heir, for *custom* rules these estates. The residue of the manor was termed the *lord's waste*, serving for roads and common pasture, for the lord and his tenantry.

For the government of such a tract of land, and the tenants thereon, a court was held, called, from the Norman usage, a *court-baron*, where, at certain periods, his tenantry were commanded to assemble. In that court the lord was informed, on oath, of all dues, rents, reliefs, &c. that had happened to him, such information being called *presentment*. His bailiff was then authorised to seize and distrain for the same, if withholden; then also debts and trespasses, under 40s. might be sued for; the freeholders of the manor being deputed judges of the cause, and therefore as incidental to their tenures, held by *suit of court*, that is, by attendance there to judge in such actions, and make presentment on behalf of the lord.

A tenant *in capite* was, under the king, *lord paramount* over all the manors and district of country held by his *mesne* tenants, as each of those were in turn over such who in like manner held under them; which seignory of the principal lord is frequently termed an *honour*, more especially if appertaining to an ancient feodal baron, or having at any time been vested in the crown.

The inferior lords continued to portion out their lands to others, as held of themselves *ad infinitum*, till the superior lords found that by such method of *subinfeudation*, they were deprived of all their feodal profits. On that account, the statute of Westminster, passed in the 18th of Edward I., named, from two words therein, *Quia emptores*, whereby it was enacted that no subject thenceforward should create any fresh tenants to hold of himself. Thence all manors now existing must, by immemorial prescription, have existed prior to the passing of that statute, as no new manor can have since been created, it being essential that there be tenants holding of the lord. Such was the increase of these petty manors throughout Kent, that every farm, comprising 90 or 100 acres, became a manor, and had its court; but the expenses of holding the same, greatly exceeding the profits, they have long been discontinued, and the rents and services lost, wherefore they are now

styled *manors by repute,* having no privilege but the preserving of game for their lords. On the knight's service degenerating into *escuage,* or pecuniary assessments, all advantages of the feodal system were destroyed, and the hardships only remained. From time to time palliatives were applied to mitigate the grievance, and James I. formed a plan for exchanging military tenures, and annexing a fee-farm to the crown, in lieu of the same; after which, Charles I. was compelled to abrogate the power of forcing his tenants, who held by knight's service, to receive knighthood; and at the restoration of Charles II., these military tenures and their appendages were destroyed.

While military tenants continued, on the demise of every one of the king's tenants, an inquest of office was held, called *inquisitio post mortem,* to ascertain of what lands he had died seised, who was his heir, of what age, and by what service held, in order to entitle the king to his wardship, marriage, relief, &c. Such inquisition was made by jury, by the king's escheator and the feodary of the county, who regulated the inquiries, the court of wards and liveries having been instituted in the 32d of Henry VIII., and abolished as above.

SOCAGE TENURES.

We now proceed to explain the *Socage Tenures of Ancient Demesne and Gavelkind.* The former consists of such lands and manors as were the ancient inheritance of the crown, and actually so vested under Edward the Confessor, or William the Conqueror, as appears from Domesday record, in the Exchequer, wherein they are entered under the title of *Terra Regis.* Most of those possessions have at different epochs been granted to private subjects, but the tenants under the crown were not all of the same order or degree, some having remained for a long period in absolute villenage, dependant on the will of the lord, and such as succeeded them in their tenures now differ but in few points from common copyholders. Others were in a great measure enfranchised by royal favor, holding their lands by the superior species of villein services, all now changed into pecuniary rents; in consequence of which, they possessed many immunities and privileges granted to them, as

trying the right of their property in a court of their own, called a *court of ancient demesne*, neither paying toll or taxes, contributing to the expenses of the knights of the shire, or being put upon juries, &c.

The *Socage Tenure of Gavelkind* general by prevails throughout Kent, to which are annexed certain special customs inherent, anciently denominated *Consuetudines Kantiæ*, or the *common law* of Kent. Antiquaries vary in their opinions concerning the etymology of the term *gavelkind*, while that which is most natural and consonant with reason and authority, is drawn from the nature of the services. According to such exposition of the term, it owes its origin to the Saxon word *gafel*, or *gavel*, signifying rent or performance of husbandry work, wherefore they termed such lands as yielded that species of service, *gavelkind*, meaning the kind of land that yields rent. Lambarde, Somner, and Philipott, concur in the above opinion. On this subject several treatises are extant; that of Somner is confined to the etymology of the name, and origine and antiquity of the custom, together with a few speculative points. M. Taylor treats of the history and etymology of *gavelkind* in a general sense; the work of Lambarde on the same subject is a summary confined to the points of the *custumal;* and M. Robinson comprehends all that is of utility in the foregoing, as well as a comprehensive account of *tenure* and *custumal*; in addition to which, it contains a complete *law treatise* on these heads, being of such high authority in the courts of judicature, as to be generally referred to in knotty and unknown points of this singular species of tenure and custom.

Supposing such to be the true etymology, it is plain that *Gavelkind*, in the strict sense of the term, means only *the tenure* of the land, and that the partibility, and other customary qualities, are rather extrinsic and accidental to *gavelkind*, from the customary laws of the place, than comprehended under that term.

Gavelkind lands are not peculiar to this county, there being many instances of them in various parts of the kingdom, said to partake of the nature and custom of *gavelkind*, a style assumed since the *disgaveling* statute of the 31st of Henry VIII. Previous to that period, they were never mentioned as *Gavelkind lands*, but merely such as were partible, and had been

separated; so peculiar indeed is this tenure esteemed to be to the county of Kent, that although in other places the claimant must set forth the custom on which he founds his claims to the land, as being of the tenure of *gavelkind*, in Kent it is sufficient to shew the custom at large, and state that the property is situated in that county, being of the nature of *gavelkind*, of which all lands in Kent are presumed to be, until the contrary be proved. On this account, all works call *gavelkind* in Kent by a higher apellation than is allowed to any other custom, namely, *the Common Law of Kent*. It is well known that all lands in this county, which were anciently and originally held in socage tenure, are of the nature of *Gavelkind*, of which description were the majority of the *terre tenants* of the several seignories therein, who held by that tenure, notwithstanding their chief lords held by military service.

The custom of *Gavelkind* can neither be created or taken away by change of tenure, or any other means, except an Act of Parliament; in former times, our monarchs indeed exercised the prerogative of changing the *customary* descent with the tenure, which power was sometimes delegated to others, for King John, in his 3d year, by charter, authorised Hubert, archbishop of Canterbury, to change the *gavelkind* tenures, held of the see of Canterbury, into tenures by knight's service.

The special customs incidental to *gavelkind* in this county, are, that the husband, on the demise of his wife, enjoys one moiety of her inheritance in *gavelkind* by courtesy, whether he has children by her or not, until he remarries. The wife, on her husband's decease, has a moiety of his lands, as her dower, during the period she remains a widow, and in chastity; after which, says the custom,

> "He that does turn or wend her,
> Let him also give unto her, or lend her."

The tenant of *Gavelkind* lands is kept in ward one year longer than is permitted by the common law, that is, until he attains the age of fifteen, when he is deemed sufficiently mature to alien his estate by feoffment. Lands in *gavelkind*, if the tenant commits felony, and submits to the judgment of the law, are not forfeited, neither do they escheat to the king, or

other lord of whom they are held, which gave occasion for the following saying:

"The father to the bough,
And the son to the plough."

Neither has the king, year, day, and waste of lands in *gavelkind*, held of a common person, where the tenant is executed for felony.

The tenant had a power of devising lands by will, before the statute for that purpose was enacted in the 32d of Henry VIII.

Lands in *gavelkind* descend to all the sons in equal portions, and if no male children, then to the daughters, in like manner. As to the chattels, it was formerly part of the custom of Kent to divide them (the funeral debts of the deceased being liquidated,) into three portions, if he left only lawful issue behind him; of which three parts, one was for the defunct, for the performance of legacies; a second to the children, for their education; and the third to the widow, for support and maintenance.

If the tenant of *gavelkind* lands withdraws the due rent and services from his lord, the custom of Kent awards the latter a solemn *cessavit*, called *gavelet*, by which, unless the tenant redeems his lands by paying the arrearages, and makes amends, they become forfeited to the lord, who enters and occupies them as his own demesnes.

Tenants in *gavelkind* claim the privilege, that where writ of right is brought touching *gavelkind* lands, the grand assise shall not be chosen in the ordinary manner, by four knights, but four tenants in *gavelkind*, who shall not associate to themselves twelve knights, but the same number of tenants in *gavelkind;* and further, that trial by battle shall not be allowed in such a writ for these lands. Notwithstanding such claim, one of the last instances of battle joined in a writ of right, was in the case of Lowe and Paramour, for lands in Harty that are *gavelkind*. See Coke's Entries, p. 182; and Speed's Chron. p. 1166.

Other privileges existed relating to *gavelkind* lands, now become obsolete, namely, exemption from serving on juries in

attaints, abrogated by a statute in the 18th of Henry VI., that no man should have common in lands of that nature; the privilege of driving off cattle found damage *fesant* on *gavelkind* lands; as also a custom, peculiar to the Weald, that the lords of whom the *drovedennes* were held in *gavelkind*, should have all the great oaks, ash, and beech, growing there, with the pannage thereof; and the tenants the underwood only, or at most, the oak, ash, and beech, under forty year's growth; no vestige of such right now exists, the claim having been given up by the lords when they agreed with their tenants, under Edward III. and Richard II. The Kentish *custumal* also claims that the bodies of Kentish men be free, as well as the other free bodies of England, which was formerly under a state of hereditary bondage, a most glorious and valuable birthright.

Another privilege claimed by the men of Kent, is the being placed in the vanguard of the army when engaged with the rest of their neighbours; the same having been accorded them for their gallantry in battles against the Saxons and Danes, long anterior to the Conquest.

Several copies are extant of the *Custumal of Kent*, in French and Latin, in the latter of which it is entitled *Consuetudines*, and *Constitutiones Kantiæ*, every copy, however, differing in many essential points.

Many claims were set forth of these liberties before *the Kentish justices in eyre*, more particularly under Henry III. and Edward I., owing to the continued encroachments made upon them by the sheriffs and officers of the crown, and the use of them was frequently allowed in those *iters*. One in particular, to be found in a record preserved in the Surrenden library, sets forth, "that this county ought of right to be free from the grievances therein complained of:" the record then continues, "because the said county was not conquered with the rest of the kingdom, but surrendered itself up to the Conqueror, by a peace made with him, and a saving to itself of all liberties and free customs before that time had and used."

The confirmation of these ancient privileges from the Conqueror appears feasible, if we suppose that *gavelkind* was the common law of the realm; for it is found that the county of Kent retained and enjoyed it by this composition, when nearly

all the residue of the kingdom was deprived of that law, and compelled to submit to such edicts as were forced upon it by the arbitrary sway of the Conqueror. Whether this was accomplished by means of the moving wood at Swanscombe, adverted to in our history, or by a treaty ratified at the place in question, or elsewhere, we find no authority sufficiently conclusive to decide.

It is laid down as a rule, that an Act of Parliament only can change the nature of *gavelkind* lands, which has occasioned the passing several edicts for the purpose of *disgavelling* the possessions of numerous individuals in this county, as frequently mentioned in our History.

The various statutes of that description are of a private nature, none being printed in the statute books except that of the 31st of Henry VIII. The others are as follow.

An Act in the 11th of Henry VII. for *disgavelling* the lands of Sir Richard Guldeford.

In the 15th of Henry VIII. for the lands of Sir Henry Wyatt.

In the 31st of Henry VIII. for the lands of the persons under designated, those marked with a star (*) being named in this Act, as well as that ensuing of the 2d and 3d of Edward VI.

Thomas lord Cromwell	*Sir Anthony St. Leger
Thomas lord Burghe	*Sir Edward Wotton
George lord Cobham	Sir Edward Bowton
Andrew lord Windsore	*Sir Roger Chomley
*Sir Thomas Cheyne	Sir John Champneys
Sir Christopher Hales	*John Baker, esq.
Sir Thomas Willoughby	Reginald Scott
*John Guldeford	Edward Fetiplace
*Thomas Kempe	Thomas Hardres
Edward Thwaites	William Waller
*William Roper	*Thomas Wilford
Anthony Sondes	*Thomas Moyle
Edward Isaac	*Thomas Herlakenden
Percival Harte	Godfrey Lee
Edward Monyns	*James Hales
William Whetnall	Henry Hussey
John Fogg	Thomas Roydon.

An Act in the 2d and 3d of Edward VI. for *disgavelling* the lands of the following persons.

*Sir Thomas Cheyne	Sir George Harper
*Sir Anthony Seintleger	Sir Henry Istley
Sir Robert Southwell	Sir George Blage
*Sir John Baker	Thomas Colepeper, of Bedgbury
*Sir Edward Wootton	John Colepeper, of Aylesford
*Sir Roger Cholmley	Thomas Colepeper, son of John
*Sir Thomas Moyle	*William Roper
Sir John Gate	*Thomas Wylforde
Sir Edmund Walsingham	*Thomas Harlakenden
*Sir John Guldeford	William Twisenden
Sir Humphrey Style	Thomas Darrell, of Scotney
*Sir Thomas Kempe	Robert Rudstone
Sir Martin Bowes	Thomas Roberts
*Sir James Hales	Stephen Darrell
Richard Coverte	William Colepeper
Christopher Blower	John Mayne
Thomas Hendley	Walter Mayne
Thomas Harman	Thomas Walton
Thomas Lovelace	John Tufton
Reginald Peckham	Thomas White
Herbert Fynche	Peter Hayman
Sir Walter Handley	Thomas Argal.

An Act in the 1st of Elizabeth, for the lands of Thomas Browne, of West Becheworth, in Surrey, and George Browne esqrs.

An Act in the 8th of the same queen, for the lands of Thomas Browne, esq.

An Act in the 21st of James I. for the lands of

Thomas Potter, esq.
Sir George Rivers, knt.
Sir John Rivers, bart.

The words used in these statutes are very general, such as that all manors, lands, tenements, &c. lying and being within the county of Kent, whereof the individuals mentioned in the Acts were then seized, and of the nature of *gavelkind*, should thenceforward be clearly changed from the said custom, and made to descend according to the common law, as if the same had never been of the nature of *gavelkind*. Yet, notwith-

standing the general sense of these words, the courts afterwards determined, that the statutes for *disgavelling* only took away the partibility, and not the other qualities and customs appertaining to lands in this county.

The length of time that has transpired since the passing the above Acts, the change of property, extinction of the *court of Wards*, and the *inquisitiones post mortem*, the paucity of knowledge as to where records may be found, and the great expense attending a research after the same; the difficulty of proving what estates the persons named in the *disgavelling* statutes were seized of at the time they were passed, as well as what lands were formerly subject to military tenures, which has daily increased since their abolition; those impediments, we say, have become so great, that the proprietors of lands entitled to the benefits of those Acts, generally prefer waving such privilege, suffering their lands to pass in common with their neighbours, rather than encounter so much trouble and expense. We may therefore confidently assert, that nearly as much land in Kent is now subject to the control of the custom as there was previous to the passing these *disgavelling* statutes.

RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENTS.

Prelates, and others of religious callings, under the Saxons, held their possessions by a tenure, called in French, *frankalmoign*, and in Latin, *libera eleemosyna*, and *pura et perpetua eleemosyna*, that is, *in free alms*, or *pure and perpetual alms* to them and their successors for ever.

Such is the tenure whereby almost all the ancient monasteries, &c. held their lands, and by which the deans and chapters, the clergy, and other eleemosynary foundations, still continue to hold them; *frankalmoign* being excepted by name in the statute of Charles II. for abolishing tenures, wherefore it exists in numerous instances at the present day. This tenure is very distinct from all others, not being feudal, but merely spiritual, differing materially from what was called tenure by divine service, in which the tenants were bound to perform some special divine services. This was a Saxon tenure, and continued

under the Norman sway, except as to bishops and greater abbots, whose possessions were, by the Conqueror, rendered subject to knight's service *in capite*, through the great respect shown to religious men, whose prayers, according to the laws of Edward II., were to be regarded as more effectual than the secular arm. For this reason, tenants in *frankalmoign* were discharged from all secular services, except the *trinoda necessitas* of repairing highways, bridges, building castles, &c. as the Druids, among the ancient Britons, had their *omnium rerum immunitatem.*

The clergy of England were anciently of two descriptions, *regular* and *secular*, the former living under certain rules, the latter equally ecclesiastics, but not living under such regulations, called *secular*, of which description were bishops, deans, and chapters, archdeacons, prebendaries, canons, parsons, and vicars. To give a regular history of monks, friars, nuns, &c. would be superfluous; we shall, therefore, confine ourselves to what bears reference to their dissolution, as regards the county of Kent.

In this county existed, of the Benedictines, two abbeys, three priories, and five nunneries; of the Cluniacs, one priory; of the Cistertians, one abbey; of secular canons, five colleges; of regular canons, four abbeys and five priories, whereof one was of the Premonstratensian order. Of the various sorts of friars we find one priory and one nunnery of Dominicans; two priories of Franciscans; one priory of Trinitarians; three priories of Carmelites, and four alien priories. Two commanderies of the knights of St. John of Jerusalem, and fifteen hospitals, besides numerous hermitages, chantries, and five chapels, which houses were suppressed at different periods.

The first occurred under Henry VI., when learning began to revive, and great men became fond of founding colleges, which were endowed with lands previously enjoyed by the monks. In the 16th year of the above prince, archbishop Chicheley founded All Souls, in Oxford; and William of Wickham, following his example, erected New College, in that university, who obtained leave to settle the revenues of several alien priories on those establishments, among which number was that of New Romney, in this county.

Several other colleges in Oxford and Cambridge were thus

founded and endowed, and about the 21st of Henry VII., A.D. 1508, Margaret countess of Richmond began the fountion of St. John's college, Cambridge, when Littlechurch, otherwise Higham, and an hospital of Regulars, at Ospringe, in this county, were suppressed, and the revenues settled on the above institution.

Under Henry VIII., cardinal Wolsey, being desirous of founding colleges at Ipswich and Oxford, and finding numerous petty monasteries in England, where the revenues and number of monks were too insignificant to keep up a regular discipline and hospitality, obtained leave from the pope, in 1524, with the king's acquiescence, to abrogate as many of such small monasteries as should be required to raise a revenue not exceeding 3000 ducats per annum. Thirty religious houses were, in consequence, suppressed, among which were the priories at Lesnes and Tunbridge, in Kent.

About the above period, a papal bull was issued, granting to cardinal Wolsey a licence for the suppression of all religious houses that did not contain above six monks, to the value of 8000 ducats per annum, for the endowment of Windsor and King's colleges, Cambridge; two other bulls being also issued to cardinals Wolsey and Campegius, for establishments containing less than twelve members, and annexing the same to larger monasteries. A third bull was also issued to the same dignitaries, for inquiring as to abbeys fit for suppression, preparatory to their being constituted cathedrals; nothing, however, transpired in pursuance of those papal authorizations.

The principal intent of Wolsey in suppressing such houses, was the desire to promote learning, though some had perhaps other objects in contemplation. Cranmer, for instance, appears to have favored this plan, as it facilitated his views in furthering the reformation, and as learning greatly contributed to lay open the corruptions then practised, these measures tended to abolish the nurseries of superstition. It must, however, be confessed, that if vices existed in many religious establishments, they were by no means of that flagrant description as represented in reports of the visitors appointed by government. We are informed by lord Herbert, that some societies behaved in such an exemplary manner, that their lives were not only free from heinous faults, but every leisure moment bestowed

in writing books, painting, carving, engraving, &c.; while in the preamble to the first Act of dissolution, it states, that in the larger monasteries religion was right well observed and adhered to.

The suppression being resolved on, an Act passed, in the 27th of Henry VIII., which not only gave to the king the revenues of every religious fraternity whose rental did not exceed £200 per annum, but all such as within one year had been surrendered or otherwise dissolved. By the above Act, 380 houses were set aside, and revenues to the amount of £30,000 a year devolved to the crown, besides £100,000 in plate and jewels. The result of this blow was, that notwithstanding many of the fraternities entered larger monasteries, 10,000 were thereby compelled to seek their fortunes in the world, with only 40s. allowance, and a new gown accorded to some of them. Of the above number was the Franciscan priory, at Greenwich, suppressed August 11, in the 26th of Henry VIII.

Subsequent to the above, followed the houses under mentioned, in this county, during the following year. West Langdon abbey; Folkstone, Dover, and Bilsington priories; the nunnery of Minster, in Sheppey; Canterbury priory; St. Gregory's, Dover; the abbey of St. Radigund; with the priories of Cumbwell, Horton, Hedcome, Mottenden, Canterbury, Aylesford, Newenden, and Sandwich.

These suppressions created great murmurings among the secular, as well as regular clergy, which breaking out into open rebellion, Henry VIII. deemed that a fitting opportunity to annihilate the residue, when a new visitation of monasteries was appointed, the visitors being further instructed to examine all that related to their conversation or affection to the king and his supremacy, as well as their impostures, superstitions, and how they had been effected during the recent commotions.

The result was, the surrender of the greater abbeys, many having been faulty during the rebellion, and subjected themselves to the royal displeasure, wherefore they surrendered their houses and estates to save their lives.

This new measure produced the surrender of the following houses in Kent: Canterbury priory; Boxley abbey; with Canterbury and St. Sepulchre's nunnery, in the 29th year of that

reign; and the abbeys of Faversham and St. Augustine's, Canterbury; with Malling nunnery, the year ensuing.

Numerous petitions were sent in, even by those who favored the Reformation, that some of those fraternities might be spared, but the despotic will of the tyrannic Henry was not to be swayed, and they were all rejected; therefore, although no law existed that compelled the abbots to resign, means not the most honest were resorted to, which compelled them to obey the mandate of the court.

In 1539, a further Act passed, whereby all houses which, since the former Act had been suppressed, or might, after this Act, be surrendered, were confirmed to the king and his successors. Most of the mitred or Parliamentary abbots were present when the above Act, was passed, and every one shortly after brought to surrender, except those of Colchester, Glastenbury, and Reading, who were in consequence arraigned for high treason, and executed.

The remainder of religious institutions suppressed in this county, were in Canterbury, Christ Church priory, Dartford nunnery, Leeds priory; and, in Rochester, St. Andrew's priory.

The following year, the order of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem was suppressed, when, among the rest of their revenues in this county, were the commanderies at West Peckham and Swingfield, both of which devolved to the crown.

The result of the above arbitrary proceedings was an augmentation to the royal revenue of £100,000 per annum, besides an immense sum in jewels and plate.

In the 37th of Henry VIII., the obsequious Parliament, in order to supply fresh wants on the part of the king, granted him all colleges, chantries, free chapels, hospitals, and guilds; which Act was made in such general terms, that even the colleges in Oxford and Cambridge, with those of Winchester and Eaton, came within its meaning. On the breaking up of the Parliament, therefore, notice was sent to both universities, stating that they were at the royal disposal, when they petitioned for mercy, which was obtained. The commissioners, however, named for giving the king possession of the colleges, &c. had not time to enter upon many of them prior to his death, so that, for the most part, they remained till 1548, being the 1st of

Edward VI., when they were granted, by a new Act, wherein the colleges of both universities, those of Eaton and Winchester being excepted, as some few others were, to the king. They were consequently soon annulled, to the number of 90 colleges, 110 hospitals, and 2374 chantries and free chapels.

In the county of Kent were the following hospitals and colleges: in Canterbury, Eastbridge, Maynards, and Northgate hospitals; in Chatham, St. Bartholomew's hospital, Harbledown, Hythe; in Sandwich, St. Bartholomew's hospital; in Canterbury, St. Lawrence and St. Margaret's Poor Priests' hospitals; in Dover, St. Bartholomew's and Maison Dieu hospitals; in Thanington, St. James's hospital; Sevenoke and Strode hospitals, Bredgar and Maidstone; Wingham, Cobham, and Wye secular colleges.

A list of the chantries, free chapels, guilds, fraternities, &c. in the county of Kent:

Ash, by Sandwich, chantry.
Bapchild, Radfield, free chapel.
Chidingstone chantry.
Cranbrook, Milkhouse free chapel.
Herne, Virgin Mary chantry.
Horten, Kirkby chantry.
Maidstone, fraternity of Corpus Christi.
Malling, East, a free chapel, called New Hythe.
Orpington *Chapel*, two chantries.
Orpington Rufforth, chantry, in Crofton.
Penshurst, chantry.
Pepenbury, ditto.
Petham Depden, ditto.
Reculver, Holy Trinity chantry.
Sandwich, in St. Peter's church, chantry.
Sevenoke, chantry.
Sittingborne, ditto; and
Teynham, ditto.

The total *clear revenues* of the above institutions and other religious establishments in this county, amounted to about £9000 per annum; and the number of houses suppressed, from first to last, were 3182, the annual revenues of which were about £140,785, while the persons they contained were estimated at 47,721 souls.

As pensions were allowed to nearly all such as had been members of the larger monasteries, the king did not immediately enjoy the entire revenues; however, out of the sum he received, were founded six new bishoprics; and in eight other sees he founded deans and chapters, by converting the priors and monks into deans and prebendaries, among which were those of Canterbury and Rochester. He also founded two colleges in Oxford and Cambridge, and several professorships in either university; having also proved a munificent benefactor to the city of London. In addition to the above, he expended vast sums in building and fortifying forts and castles on the sea coast, having intended to effect more; but owing to the continual grants made of those lands to his courtiers, and being unbounded in his expenditures, he soon wasted the whole of this immense revenue, when nothing further was effected by him.

It is a melancholy reflection, that in the hurry of this dissolution, immense numbers of invaluable books and MSS. were destroyed, to the irreparable loss of the lovers of science and literature, as every religious house of any consequence possessed its library and archives. From their chronicles, registers, &c. relating to their particular establishments and estates, the history and antiquities of the nation, and almost every particular district, might have been more amply illustrated. The various excellent accounts of distinguished families; of the foundations, establishments, and appropriations of churches, and the endowment of vicarages; of the ancient boundaries of forests, counties, hundreds, and parishes; of the privileges, tenures, and rentals of manors and estates, &c. which are to be found in such works as are still extant, afford sufficient testimony what vast advantages must have resulted, had there been a greater number of such valuable documents preserved for the benefit of futurity.

We have, at page 112 of our first volume, referred the reader to Hasted's History, for an account of most of the foregoing heads; having, however, in the progress of our labour, received a variety of communications, purporting that the scarcity and high price of that production debarred the majority of the subscribers from acquiring the desired information, we deemed

it absolutely requisite to furnish the foregoing details. We further conceive it necessary to remark, that we have inserted a more ample description of the Weald, at the desire of many patrons of this History, whereto are added comprehensive calculations in reference to the county of Kent, which will be found, we trust, satisfactory to the public.

EMINENT CHARACTERS BORN, AND WHO HAVE FLOURISHED, IN THE COUNTY OF KENT.

AMHURST, Nicholas, of Marden.

BAKER, Sir Richard, a clever historian and miscellaneous author, 1568.

BEHN, Aphra, of Canterbury, an elegant and accomplished female writer.

BOYS, Dr. John, dean of Canterbury, of Hode court, parish of Blean, a very eminent divine, 1571.

BOYS, William, esq. F.A. and LL.S., an eminent surgeon and medical writer, 1735.

BRETT, Thomas, LL.D., an eminent writer, 1667.

BROWN, Moses, of Morden College.

BUCKHURST, Thomas Sackville, lord and earl of Dorset, of Knole, a very elegant writer.

CARTER, Mrs. Elizabeth, of Deal, a justly celebrated authoress.

CASE, Thomas, an eminent theological writer, 1599.

CAWTHORN, James, of Tunbridge.

CAXTON, William, the first printer in England, 1412.

CHAPMAN, George, poet and miscellaneous author, 1557.

COLEPEPER, or CULPEPER, Sir Thomas, a miscellaneous writer, 1636 to 1680.

COLEPEPER, Nicholas, a celebrated herbalist, &c.

CURTEIS, Thomas, of Sevenoke.

DEERING, DERING, or DEARING, Edward, a very learned divine, celebrated for his eloquence, 1600.

DIGGES, Leonard, a miscellaneous writer.

DORSET, Charles Sackville, earl of, a very beautiful miscellaneous writer.

DRAYTON, Michael, a much esteemed poetical writer.

DUNCOMBE, John, of Sundridge.

EATON, John, a theological writer, 1575.

ELIZABETH, Queen, Greenwich, a miscellaneous writer.

Ent, or Entius, Sir George, M.D., a learned and accomplished physician and writer, 1604.

Fawkes, Francis, of Orpington.

Fenton, Eliza, of Sevenoke.

Finch, Heneage, first earl of Nottingham, a very clever writer, 1621.

Finch, Sir Henry, a learned civilian of Gray's Inn; he flourished late in the 15th century.

Fish, Simon, who flourished early in 1500; he wrote a severe satire on the bishops, &c.

Fletcher, Phineas, of Brenchley, near Cranbrooke, a celebrated poet, 1584.

Fletcher, Gibs, a miscellaneous writer, late in the 15th century.

Fludd, Robert, M.D., a celebrated philosophical writer, 1574.

Frith, or Fryth, John, a learned and eloquent divine, who wrote many works late in 1500. He was burnt in Smithfield, A.D. 1533.

Fulman, William, an acute antiquary, 1632.

Glover, Richard, an elegant poet and miscellaneous author.

Gosson, Stephen, a miscellaneous writer, 1554.

Gunning, Peter, D.D., bishop of Ely, a learned writer, 1613.

Hales, Stephen, D.D., F.R.S., a very celebrated writer, 1677.

Hasted, Edward, esq., a most persevering and elaborate historian and topographer, 1732.

Hawkins, Sir Thomas, of Nash court, near Boughton, a writer.

Hawksworth, Dr. John, of Bromley, a universally admired writer.

Hildersley, Mark, bishop of Soda and Man, a clever writer and worthy prelate, 1698.

Jackson, William, of Canterbury.

Jacob, Henry, a very voluminous writer, who founded the original Congregational or Independent Religious Society in England, 1624.

Jorden, Edward, a physician, chemist, and philosophical writer, 1569.

Lambard, William, an historian, 1536.

Lardner, Nathaniel, D.D., a most learned and valuable writer, and no less eminent, when considered in the light of an English theologian, 1684.

Lily, John, poet and miscellaneous author, 1553.

Lovelace, Richard, of Woolwich, an elegant poet, 1618.

Macaulay, or Graham, Catherine, a miscellaneous female writer of republican principles, 1733.

Mary, Queen, 1517, writer of numerous letters in English, French, and Spanish, prayers, &c.

Mennes, Sir John, of Sandwich, a poet and traveller, 1598.

Nevile, Alexander, a poetical and miscellaneous writer, 1544.

Odo, of Kent, a very learned and eloquent monk of the Benedictine fraternity. He flourished late in the 11th century.

Palmer, Herbert, a very learned and pious divine and writer, 1601.

Pembroke, Mary countess of; Penshurst, a most accomplished authoress, who flourished under Elizabeth.

Philipot, John, Somerset Herald, a learned and indefatigable author, 1600.

Plott, Robert, LL.D., F.R.S., &c. a very eminent philosopher and laborious writer, 1640.

Poynet, or Ponet, John, D.D. and bishop of Rochester, author of a variety of theological treatises.

Randolph, Thomas, a poet, 1523.

Rooke, Sir George, a very gallant naval commander and author, 1650.

Rowe, Edward Moses, a learned antiquary, 1730.

Sedley, Charles, of Aylesford, a beautiful poetic writer.

Sidney, Sir Philip, of Penshurst, a beautiful poet and prose writer, and one of the most gallant soldiers who flourished in the 16th century.

Sidney, Algernon, a famous patriot and political writer, of Penshurst.

Six, James, of Canterbury.

Smart, Christopher, of Shipborne, a well known writer.

Spencer, Edmund, the father of figurative English poetry; he resided much at Penshurst, and was patronized by Sir Philip Sidney.

SPENCER, John, D.D., a learned divine, 1630.

SURRY, Henry Howard, earl of, a very beautiful and classical poet, who first introduced the refinements of Italian composition; he flourished under Henry VIII.

THORPE, John, M.D., F.R.S., a physician and antiquary, 1682.

WALLIS, Dr. John, F.R.S., a very scientific and voluminous writer, 1616.

WOTTON, Sir Henry, of Bocton Malherbe, a deservedly esteemed miscellaneous writer.

WYATT, Sir Thomas, of Allington Castle, a poet, who flourished under Henry VIII.

TOPOGRAPHICAL AND ANTIQUARIAN WORKS

RELATING TO

THE HISTORY OF KENT.

THE earliest work extant, relating to this county, is "The Perambulation of Kent, by William Lambard, containing the description, historie, and customes of that shyre, collected and written for the most part in the yeare 1570, and nowe increased by the addition of some things which the author himself hath observed since that time;" first published in 1576. A second edition was issued by Henry Middleton, "increased and altered after the author's owne last copy." Lond. 1596. 4to. The third edition, corrected and enlarged, is a small 8vo. without date. And the fourth edition, 1640, has the charters, &c. of the Cinque Ports.

Another edition of "Lambard's Perambulation" appeared in 1656.

Richard Kilburne, esq. of Hawkerst, published "A Topographie, or Survey of the County of Kent, with some chronological, historicall, and other matters touching the same: and the several parishes and places therein. Lond. 1659." 4to. He had, in 1657, previously published "A brief survey of the county, viz. the names of the parishes in the same; in what bailywick, hundred, lath, division of the county, and division of justices, every of the said parishes is; what liberties do claim in the same; the day on which any market or fair is kept therein; the ancient names of the parish churches; in what hundred or what township every of the said churches doth stand; and in what diocese every of the said parishes was."

Thomas Philipott, esq. of Clare hall, Cambridge, published, "*Villare Cantianum*, or Kent surveyed and illustrated; being an exact description of the parishes, burroughs, villages, and other respective manors included in the county of Kent, and the original and intermedial possessors of them, even until

these times; drawn out of charters, escheat-rolls, fines, and other public evidences; but especially out of gentlemen's private deeds and muniments: to which is added an historical catalogue of the high sheriffs of Kent, collected by John Philipott, esq. father to the author. Lond. 1659." The above was reprinted by Whittingham, 1776.

Large collections towards a natural history and antiquities of Kent, by Dr. Plot, are mentioned among his MSS.; and Bishop Gibson, in the preface to his first edition of Camden, observes, that the doctor had surveyed Kent and Middlesex for him.

"The History of Kent, in five parts, containing, I. An exact topography, or description of the county. II. The civil history of Kent. III. The ecclesiastical history of Kent. IV. The history of the royal navy of England. V. The natural history of Kent. Vol. I. London, 1719." Fol. By Dr. John Harris, prebendary of Rochester, and rector of Winchelsea, above twelve years; who died before he had accomplished more than half his design, so that three parts out of the five were not completed.

"The History and topographical Survey of the County of Kent. Containing the ancient and present state of it, civil and ecclesiastical: collected from public records, and other authorities, both manuscript and printed; and illustrated with maps and views of antiquities, seats of nobility and gentry, &c.: by Edward Hasted, esq. of Canterbury, F.R.S. and F.A.S. Canterbury, 1778, 4 vol." Folio.

A second edition of Mr. Hasted's work was published, 1797, in twelve volumes, 8vo.

"The Enrichment of the Weald of Kent; or a direction to the husbandman, for the true ordering, manuring, and enriching of all the grounds within all the Wealds of Kent and Sussex; and may generally serve for all the grounds in England of that nature, &c. painfully gathered for the good of this Island, by a man of great eminence and worth; but revised, enlarged and corrected with the consent and by conference with the first author. By Gervase Markham. Lond. 1649." 4to.

This work contains many curious particulars; but the most comprehensive and satisfactory view of the agriculture and sta-

tistics of the county, is contained in "A general View of the Agriculture of Kent, with observations on the means of its improvement, &c. &c. drawn up for the consideration of the Board of Agriculture, by John Boys, of Betshanger, farmer: 2d edition, 8vo. 1813." The last-mentioned impression comprises much new and interesting information.

The celebrated custom of Gavelkind, established in few other parts of England, is fully discussed by Somner in his "Treatise of Gavelkind, both name and thing: shewing the true etymology and derivation of the one; the nature, antiquity, and original of the other: with sundry emergent observations both pleasant and profitable to be known to Kentish men and others, especially such as are studious of the antient customs or the common law of this kingdom. By a well-wisher to both. William Somner. Lond. 1660.". 4to. A second edition was published in 1726.

The Rev. John Dart, of Greenwich, published "The History and Antiquities of the Cathedral Church of Canterbury, and the once-adjoining monastery: containing an account of its first establishment, buildings, re-edifications, repairs, endowments, benefactions, chapels, altars, shrines, reliques, chauntries, obits, ornaments, books, jewels, plate, vestments; before the dissolution of the monastery, and the manner of its dissolution: a survey of the present church and cloisters, monuments, and inscriptions, and other things remarkable: which, with the several prospects of the church, are engraven by the best hands; the lives of the archbishops, priors, &c. of Christ church; with an account of learned men there flourishing in their several times: and an Appendix of ancient charters and writings relating to the church and monastery; a catalogue of this church-wealth in Prior Eskey's time; an ancient Saxon obituary, and a large one continued thence downward, 1726." Folio.

"An Historical Description of the Cathedral and Metropolitical Church of Christ, Canterbury; containing an account of its antiquities, and of its accidents and improvements, since the first establishment, Canterb. 1772." 8vo.

A copious history and description of the cathedral churches of Canterbury and Rochester, illustrated by numerous excellent engravings, is comprised in "Storer's History and Anti-

quities of the Cathedral Churches of Great Britain." 4 vols. 8vo.

"A walk in and about the city of Canterbury, with many observations not to be found in any description hitherto published. By William Gostling, M.A. a native of the place, and minor canon of the cathedral. Embellished with a new and correct plan of the city, in which is introduced the old church of St. Andrew, Archbishop Abbot's conduit, and a north view of St. Augustine's monastery: also an elegant engraving of the church-gate, and a chart of those parts described in a Tour through East Kent. Cant. 1744." 12mo.

A useful *Guide* to the City of Canterbury and the Cathedral-church, published by Messrs. Cowtan and Colegate, of Canterbury.

"The History and Antiquities of the Cathedral Church of Rochester, containing the local statutes of that church; the inscriptions upon the monuments, tombs, and gravestones; an account of the bishops, priors, and archdeacons; an appendix of monumental inscriptions in the cathedral church of Canterbury, supplementary to Mr. Somner's and Mr. Batteley's accounts of that church: some original papers relating to the church and diocese. Lond. 1717." 8vo. Republished 1723.

"Registrum Roffense; or, a collection of antient records, charters, grants, and instruments of divers kinds, necessary for illustrating the ecclesiastical history and antiquities of the diocese and cathedral church of Rochester, transcribed from the originals in the Tower of London, the chapel of the rolls, the augmentation office, the king's and treasurer's remembrancer's offices in the exchequer, the Bodleian, Cottonian, and Harleian libraries, the respective register-books of the archbishop and dean and chapter of Canterbury, those of the see and cathedral church of Rochester, and other public and private repositories; by John Thorpe, esq. A.M. F.S.A. Together with the monumental inscriptions in the several churches and chapels within the diocese. Lond. 1769." Folio.

"The History and Antiquities of Rochester and its Environs: to which is added, a description of the towns, villages, gentlemen's seats, and ancient buildings, situate on, or near the road from London to Margate, Deal, and Dover. Embel-

lished with copper-plates. Rochester, 1772." 12mo. The plan by F. Baker, surveyor.

"Monasticon Favershamiense in agro Cantiano: or a surveigh of the monastery of Faversham in the county of Kent; wherein its barony and right to sit in parliament is discovered. Together with its antient and modern state described; as also its founder and benefactors remembered: by Thomas Southouse, of Gray's-inne, esq. To which is added an appendix of the descent of King Stephen, by Thomas Philipott, esq. Lond. 1671." 12mo.

"A Description of the Isle of Thanet, and particularly of the town of Margate; with an account of the accommodations, manner of bathing in the sea, &c., the antiquities and remarkable places to be seen on the island. With a description of Sandwich, Deal, Dover, Canterbury, Rochester, Chatham, and other places. Illustrated with a correct map of the island, a plan of Ramsgate Pier, and a representation of the machines for bathing. Lond. 1763." 12mo.

"Thanet and the Cinque-ports, consisting of views of the churches, castles, &c." in two volumes, is entitled to the notice of the antiquarian visitors of the Island and its vicinity.

"The History and Antiquities, ecclesiastical and civil, of the Isle of Tenet, by John Lewis, M.A., 1723." 4to.

"A Tour through the Isle of Thanet, and some other parts of East Kent, &c., by Z. Cosens, 1793." 4to.

"A Description of the Isle of Thanet, and particularly of the town of Margate, 1763." 12mo.

"The History and Antiquities of Maidstone, the county-town of Kent, from the MS. collections of William Newton, minister of Wingham, in the same county, vicar of Gillingham, in Dorset, and chaplain to the Right Hon. Margaret Viscountess of Torrington. London, 1741." 8vo.

Archdeacon Batteley's well-written posthumous work, entitled, "Antiquitates Rutupinæ," published by Dr. Terry, canon of Christ church, and Greek professor at Oxford, in 1711, 8vo., gives an entertaining and very learned account of the ancient *Rutupiæ*, and Regulbium, with other cities and ports on the coast of Kent, well known to the Romans, whose coins are there frequently discovered, and were plentifully collected by the curious author.

"The Antiquities of Richborough and Reculver abridged from the Latin of Mr. Archdeacon Batteley. London, 1774." 12mo. by John Duncombe.

"A New Topographical, Historical, and Commercial Survey of the County of Kent, 1776. By Charles Seymour." 8vo.

"Magna et Antiqua Charta Quinque Portuum Domini Regis et Membrorum corundem. *Catabrigiæ,* 1675." 12mo.

"The History and Antiquities of Reculver and Herne. 1784. By John Duncombe, M.A." (Bib. Top. Brit. No. XVIII.) 4to.

"The History of Dover Castle, 1786. By the Rev. William Darell." 4to.

"The History of the incorporated Town and Parishes of Gravesend and Milton, 1797. By R. Pocock." 4to.

"A Topographical and Historical Description of the County of Kent. By E. W. Brayley." Illustrated with a map, and thirty-seven engravings. In one large volume, 8vo.

"Cooke's Topographical and Statistical Description of the County of Kent." Illustrated with a map of the county, &c. There have recently been published two plates to this volume; the one delineating what is termed, "the Steam Boats' Companion from London to Ramsgate," shewing at one glance every object worthy remark on either side of the river; the other, a comprehensive display of all the objects worthy inspection in the vicinage of Margate. This work is well worthy the inspection of every temporary visitant of Kent, who may perform the excursion by water.

Independent of the foregoing prominent publications, a multiplicity of other works, more or less connected with the county of Kent, exist; the titles of which may be found in the 4to catalogue of Mr. Gough's topographical bequests, both MS. and printed, to the Bodlein library, Oxford; as well as in the correct and valuable work of Mr. Upcott, librarian of the London Institution. The latter gentleman has long been engaged upon a most correct work connected with this subject, which, when completed, will present the most extensive body of topographical references extant.

MAPS AND PRINTS.

Kent has been illustrated by a great number of engravings, and there are several good maps, of which those published by Messrs. Carey, Smith, and Faden, are perhaps the most useful.

INDEX TO VOL. IV.

page

Abbots court - - 158
———, or Abbeys court, mansion and estate of - - 172
Abergavenny, lord - - 311
Ackland, Sir Thomas - - 192
Allen, family of - - 41
Allhallows, parish of - - 178
——— house, estate of - 179
———, church of, and inscriptions in - - - 180
Amherst, lord - - - 577
Apulderfield, manor of - 503
———, family of - - 81
Archiepiscopal palace at Gillingham, remains of - - 361
Argyll, duke of - - - 595
Ash, parish of - - - 417
—— manor, or St. John's Ash 420
——, South, manor of - ib.
——, church of, and monuments in - - - - 422
Ashway, family of - - 503
Asylum of licensed victuallers 743
Athelstane, king of England - 306
Auberville, family of - - 474
Audley, lord - - - 704
Axstane, hundred of - - 368
Ayenglon, manor of - - 33
Aylesford, lathe of, and hundred of Hoo - - - 167
Aylesford, earl of - - 33

Badlesmere, Giles de - - 79
———, Bartholomew - 357
Baldwin, seat of - - 449
Banquel, John de - - 640
Bapchild, parish of - - 69
——— court, manor of - 71
———, church of, and memorials in - - - 75
Bardolf, family of - - 176
———, William - - 168
Barkhart, house of - - 511
Barnend, hamlet of - - 452
Barnes, family of - - 675
Bartholomew farm - - 152
Baston, manor of - - 485
Bathurst, earl of - - 662
Bavent Roger - - - 275
Bayford castle - - - 89
Beaufitz, family of - - 31
———, John - - - 362
Beckenham, parish of - - 616
———, church of, and monuments in - - - 621
Bedenwell, small hamlet of - 465
Bekele, manor of - - 211
Belknapp, family of - - 365
———, Sir Robert - - 512
Belluncle, manor of - - 171
Belvedere house, description of, and pictures in - - 466
Benedictine nunnery - - 203
Benengrave - - - 3
Berens, Joseph, esq. - - 516
Berkesone, manor of - - 19
Beton, Baldwin de - - 551
Bexley, parish of - - 532

	page
Bexley, manor of	533
——, church of, and memorials in	538
——, lord	524
Bexon, manor of	55
——, family of	ib.
Bidulph, family of	706
Bignors, manor of	447
Billingham, manor of	636
Birtrick, a Saxon noble	624
Blackhall, estate of	573
Blackheath	694
——, hundred of	629
——, Roman Watling-street at	695
——, battles at	697
Blendon hall, manor of	535
Bloor's place, manor of	6
——, Christopher, esq.	ib.
Bobbing, parish of	108
—— place	ib.
—— court mansion of	111
—— church of, and memorials in	113
Bocklande, William de la	313
Boncakes, manor of	260
Bonese, manor of	269
Bontfant, family of	386
Borden, parish of	36
——, church of, and memorials in	42
——, extraordinary oak at	37
——, family of	40
——, manor of	342
—— heath	455
——, hamlet of	459
Bourne place, house of	537
Bradborne, manor of	572
Bramptons, small manor of	505
—— hall, seat of	536
Brasted green, hamlet of	493
——, ville and parish of	598
——, village of	ib.
——, place of	ib.
——, manor of	ib.
——, estate of	660
——, church of, and monuments in	601
Bredgar, parish of	54
——, chantry house of	58
——, church of, and memorials in	ib.
Brent, Fulk de	563
Bridges, Sir Brook	146
Brigden, hamlet of	535
Brigden place, seat of	535
Britains, house and lands of	575
Broadoak, hamlet and forstal	60
Brocas, Sir Oliver	300
Brockley, anciently a manor	737
Bromley, and Beckenham, hundred of	616
——, parish of	622
——, town of	623
——, college of	627
——, estate of	230
——, church of, and monuments in	627
Brookes, estate of	207
Brook place, manor of	591
Brooke, Sir John	210
Brown's, manor of	613
Browne, family of	72
——, John	26
Broxham, manor of	607
Brun, John le	204
Buckingham, countess of	679
Buckland, South, manor of	312
——, Sir Thomas de	540
Bulleyn, George Viscount Rochford	555
Burford, family of	465
Burgh, Hubert de	44, 169
Burghersh, Bartholomew de,	459, 619
Burwash court, seat of	459
Burye, or Berry court	192
Bush, Upper and Lower	264
Calehill, manor of	129
Camden place, manor of	481
——, William Writer	482
——, esq. the great antiquary	533
——, earl of	560
Camvill, Roger de	605
Cardons, manor of	194
Catford, manor of	635
Catherine, St., hospital of	127
Cavell, family of	661
Cæsar, Sir Julius	128
Chalk, parish of	208
——, church of, and curious sculpture in	214
Chalkwell, hamlet of	94
Chapel, the free	74
Chantries and free chapels in Kent, account of	767
Charles, manor of	448
Charlton, parish of	677

page

Charlton, house of . . . 677
——— marshes . . . 686
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 687
Chartons, manor of . . . 434
Chatham, and Gillingham, hundred of . . . 346
———, parish of . . ib.
———, victualling office at . 347
———, hospital at . . . 348
———, royal naval dock at . 349
———, Roman remains discovered at . . . 352
———, manor of . . . 355
———, chest at . . . 357
———, new church of, and monuments in . . . 358
Chattenden, manor of . . 226
———, estate of . . 231
Chaundois, Sir Roger de . 541
Cheek's court, estate of . . 80
———, Atte, family of . ib.
Chelsfield, parish of . . 506
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 509
Cheney, family of . . 90
———, lord . . 5, 125
———, Henry . . . 73
———, Sir Thomas . 129, 156
———, William . . 151
———, Sir . . 142
———, manor of . . 425
——— place, and hamlet . 579
——— house, seat of . 585
———, family of . 584
Chesilhurst, parish of . . 477
———, manor of . . 481
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 483
Chesley street, hamlet of . 21
Chesterfield, Earl of . . 91
Chevening, parish of . . 579
———, manor of . . 580
———, church of, and memorials in . . . 587
Chiche, family of . . . 106
Chiffinch, family of . . 283
——, Thomas, esq. . 343
Chilefield, family of . . 507
Chilton, manor of . . 91
Chimbhams, or Chimmons place, manor of . . . 434
Christ church, priory of . 191
Clare, eminent family of . 599
Clere, Nicholas de . . 205

page

Clere, Lady Anne . . 555
Cleves, Lady Anne of . . 446
Cleyndon, estate of . . 380
Cliff, parish of . . . 187
——, village of, or Church street . . . 188
——, manor of . . . 190
——, church of, and monuments in . . . 196
Clifford, family of . . 110
———, Sir Lewis . . 221
Clintons, the, lords of Saye . 553
Cobham, parish of . . 236
Cobhambury, manor of . 251
——— hall, manor of . . 237
———, description of . ib.
———, church of . . 255
——, chantry or college . ib.
———, family of . 212, 222, 241
———, lord . 162, 185, 192, 231
——, Reginald . . 300
———, de . 171, 437
——, Sir Thomas de . . 612
Cockham wood, fort of . 227
Codsheath, hundred of, with the parish and ville of Brasted . 539
Coke, Peter, Atte . . 468
Colepeper family of . . 233
Colsall, or Chiches . . 106
Combe, or Nether Combe . 702
———'s, manor of . . 397
——, or Atte Cumbe, family of . . . 397
Comberbank, seat of . . 595
Conyers, family of . . 681
Cookstone, parish of . . 264
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 270
Coombe, manor of . . 177
Copledyke, John . . 487
Corbye hall . . . 659
Cornhill, Gervase de . . 458
Cotton, manor of . . 386
Cowdham, parish of . . 498
———, church of, and memorials in . . . 504
Cowling, parish of . . 197
———, manor of . . ib.
———, castle of . . ib.
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 200
Craggs, Newsham James . 691
Cranbrooke, manor house of . 21
———, manor of . . 34
Cray, St. Mary, parish of . 515

page

Cray, St. Mary, church of, and memorials in . . . 519
——, Pauls, parish of . . . ib.
——— hill . . . 521
———, church of . . . 523
Cray, Foots, parish of . . . ib.
——— place . . . 524
———, church of, and memorials in . . . 525
——, North, parish of . . . 526
———, church of, and inscriptions in . . . 531
——, river of . . . 470
Crayford, parish of . . . 469
———, manor of . . . 471
——— street . . . 470
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 475
Crevequer, lords of . . . 356
———, Daniel de . . . 342
———, Robert de . . . 580
Criol's, or Kyriell's, manor of . 39
——, eminent family of . . . ib.
——, John de . . . 157
Crockenhill, hamlet of . . . 437
Croft, or Yanger, ancient mansion of . . . 10
Crofton, manor of . . . 512
Cromer, Sir James . . . 91
———, Sir William . 47, 154
Crowdleham, seat of . . . 556

Dacre, lords . . . 509
——, Sir Thomas . . . 500
———'s, lady . . . 581
Dalyson, William, esq. . . . 274
———, Maximilian . . . 357
Dandele, farm of . . . 128
Dane . . . 9
—— croft . . . ib.
—— field . . . 9, 546
———, ruins of a building at, 9
—— court, estate of . . . 362
—— hull, manor of . . . 547
Danson hill, manor of . . . 535
Darell, family of . . . 19
Darent, parish of . . . 378
———, South, hamlet of . ib.
——— church, and memorials in 381
Darnley, earl of 211, 218, 264, 286
Dartford and Wilmington, hundred of . . . 441
———, parish of . . . 441
———, heath of . . . 443
——— brent . . . ib.

page

Dartford, Roman road at . . . 443
———, barrows at . . . 444
———, hermit at . . . 449
———church, and memorials in 450
———, two chantries in . . . ib.
Dean court, estate of . . . 308
Delaware, seat of . . . 601
Denham, Sir John . . . 34
Dennis, Sir Maurice . . . 445
Denton, or Denitune, parish of 215
———, church of . . . 216
Deptford, parish of . . . 726
———, royal dock at . . . 727
———, victualling office at . ib.
——— hill . . . 730
Dering, Cholmondeley, esq. . 496
Derndale, family of . . . 280
De Ros, family of . . . 439
Diggs, family of . . . 34
Disgavelled lands, account of, and by whom held . . . 760
Dodmore, manor of . . . 308
Dodsworth, Roger, MSS. of . 460
Dorset, duke of . . . 559
Downe, parish of . . . 496
——— hall . . . ib.
——— court manor of . . . 497
———, church of, and memorials in . . . ib.
Drake, Montague . . . 90
Dray, stream of . . . 153
Dudley, family of . . . 388
Dundall's, estate of . . . 280
Dyke, Sir John Dixon . 437, 495

Earde, manor of . . . 472
Eadbert, king of Kent . . . 181
Eardley, lord . . . 466
East Chalk, manor of . . . 209
—— Combe, house of . . . 679
—— and West court, manors of 361
—— court, manor of . . . 362
—— hall, estate of . . . 84
———, manor of . . . 513
———, family of . . . 84
Eastchurch, parish of . . . 140
———, church of . . . 146
Easthorne manor and mansion of Well hall . . . 654
Eaton bridge, parish of . . . 610
———, church of . . . 614
Edmeades, William, esq. . . . 303
Egbert, king of Kent . . . 271
Elham, property of . . . 475
Elizabeth, queen, description of 710

page

Emley, circumference of . 153
Elmsted, William . . 10
Eltham, parish of . . 644
———, manor of . . 649
———, palace of . . ib.
———————, kings of England resided at . . . 651
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 666
Eminent characters born, and who have flourished in Kent . 770
Emley, or Elmeley, parish and small island of . . 153
———, manor of . . 154
——— church dilapidated . 155
Englefield, noble family of . 195
Erith, parish of . . . 461
——, town of . . . ib.
——, marshes of . . 462
——, church of, and monuments in 468
——, Roman road at . . 471
Eslingham, manor of . . 226
Estwike, and Sprete, marshes of 173
Ethelwolf, Saxon king . . 265
Eve, family of . . . 33
Evelyns, family of . . 737
———, John . . . 736
Eynsford, parish of . . 435
———— castle, ruins of . 436
———, church of, falling to ruin, with the monuments therein . . . 438
————, family of . . 436

Fairy hill . . . 662
Falkeham, family of . . 409
Fane, Ralph . . . 56
Farnaby, Charles, esq. . . 573
Farnborough, parish of . . 493
———— hall . . 494
————, church of, and memorials in . . 495
Farningham, parish of . . 432
————, manor of . . 433
————, church of, and memorials in . . . 435
Fawkham, parish of . . 409
———, manor of . . 410
————, church of, and monuments in . . . 412
Ferbye, family of . . 521
Feudal tenures, account of . 750
Filston, manor of . . 541
Fitzsymond, Sir Hugh . . 217

page

Forest place, or Brockley farm 738
Fortrye, family of . . 281
Franks, seat of . . . 431
Frid wood . . . 83
Frindsbury parish . . 226
————, church of, and memorials in . . . 235
Frognall, or Frogenhall, estate of 30
———, seat of . . . 431
———, mansion of . . 477
Foxgrove, manor of . . 619
Fulston, mansion of . . 91

Gabriels, house of . . 614
Garrard, family of . . 91
Gasum, estate of . . 606
Gaunt, John of . . 127, 138
Gavelkind lands . . 756
Gawdie, Sir Thomas . . 291
Giffard, Richard, esq. . 310
Gilden hill, manor of . 376
Gillingham, parish of . 359
————, castle of . . ib.
————, battle fought at . 360
————, manor of . . 361
————, church of, and monuments in . . 366
Gloucester, earl of . . 611
Godington, or Waltons, estate of 232
Goddington, manor of . 260, 508
Godyngton, family of . . ib.
Goodneston, manor of . . 89
Goodwyne, earl of Kent . ib.
Gore, manor of . . . 14
—— court . . . 43
————, ancient seat of . 51
————, Atte, family of . 52
————, Sir Booth . . 108
Graine, island of . . 160
————, church of, and memorials in . . . 165
———, salt works at . . 161
———, manor of, or Rose court 162
Grandison, manor of . . 452
————, eminent family of . ib.
————, Sir Thomas . . 507
————, Otho de . . 513
Grange, the . . . 363
Graveney, family of . . 10
Gravesend, parish of . . 284
————, manor of . 284, 290
———— custom house and excise office . . . 288
————, baths at . . . ib.

	page
Gravesend, boarding houses at	289
———, ancient church of	287
———, de, family of	197
———, Sir Thomas de	302
Grayney, manor of	10
Great Delce, manor of	343
Greenstreet, William	361
Greenwich, parish of	692
———, East	698
——— and Combe, manors of	700
———, a royal residence	701
———, royal personages born at	709
———, hospital of	713
———, description of	716
——— pensioners, number of	721
——— Observants, religious order of	722
———, church of	724
———, old church of, and monuments in	725
Grey, Bartholomew de	150
——, lady Catherine	170
Grove end	43
Grovehurst, manor of	104
———, family of	ib.
Gwydir, lord	205
Gyve, Anselm de	375, 453
Haddon, Alexander	515
Hales, family of	49
Hall place, stately mansion of	536
———, seat of	559
——, manor of	ib.
Halling, parish of	271
———, Upper, village of	ib.
———, Lower, village of	ib.
———, episcopal palace at	272
———, church of, and monuments in	275
Halsted, parish of	543
——— court	544
———, church of, and memorials in	ib.
Halstow, parish of	18
——— creek	ib.
——— green	ib.
———, church of	20
———, and tombs in	175
———, or High Halstow, parish of	174
Halywell, hamlet of	13
———, manor of	419
Ham, or West court, manor of	16
Hamherste, Gotcelin de	252
Hargrave, de, family of	517
Harold, king	89
———, earl	706
Hart, Sir Percival	512
Hartley, parish of	412
———, church of, and monuments in	415
Hartlip, parish of	8
———, church of	12
Harty, small island of	155
———, or Sayer court, manor of	156
———, church of	159
Hastings, Manasser de	363
Hawkins, manor of	261
Hawley, hamlet of	374
Haydon, manor of	254
Hayes, parish of	484
———, church of, and memorials in	486
——— place, seat of	485
Head, family of	206
———, Sir Francis	ib.
Helles, St. Margaret's, manor of	380
———, family of	ib.
Helmes, or Holmes, manor of	115
Henden, manor of	592
Hengist, treachery of	76
Henhurst, manor of	252
Henleys, seat of	654
Hereford, earl of	673
Hering hill, estate of	466
Hermitage, seat of	205
———, Little, mansion of	226
———, the, Deptford	739
Herne, Frederic, esq.	200
Heron, Sir Christopher	521
——— William	733
Hervey, Sir William	689
Hethe, Hamo de	262
Hever court, manor of	299, 425
———, family of	299
Hewats, small manor of	509
High Street house, seat of	534
Higham court, manor of	62
———, parish of	201
———, fort and bulwark at	202
———, church of, and memorials in	208
Highlands, manor of	375
Hill park, seat of	607
Hive, seat of	283

page

Hockenden, manor of . . 517
Hoggeshaw, family of . . 61
Holbrooke, family of . . . 34
Holwood house, seat of . 492
Hoo, St. Warburgh, parish of . 167
————————, manor of . 168
——, church of, and memorials in 173
——, St. Mary's, church of, and memorials in . . . 178
Hook place, seat of . . 406
Hooness fort, or the Folly . 227
Horseman's place, mansion of . 448
Horsham, manor of . . 15
Horsted, manor of . . 356
Horton Kirkby, parish of . 429
————————, church of, and memorials in . . . 432
————, perpetual chantry in . ib.
Hou, Wlfward de . . . 177
Howbery, manor of . . 474
Huddyshole, manor of . . . 420
Hugesson, John . . . 303
Hunsdon, lord 556
Huntingfield, family of . 308, 487

Ifield Wells and Cosington, hamlets of . . . 282
—— court, manor of . . . ib.
——, parish of . . . 298
——, Roman road at . . 299
——, church of, and monuments in 301
Ingress, seat of . . . 391
Isley, Roger . . . 589
——, John de 607
Iwade, parish of . . . 114
——, church of . . 116

Jackett's court, mansion of . 530
Jeffreys, manor of . . . 674
Joyden's wood . . . 452

Kelseys, seat of . . . 620
Kemsing, parish of . . 551
————, church of, and monuments in . . . 557
Kent house 621
——, earl of 203
Keston, parish of . . 489
————, Roman camp at, and description of . . 489
——, church of, and memorials in 493

page

Kevington, manor of . . . 517
Keycole, estate of . . . 34
Key street 108
Kidbrooke, liberty of . . . 688
————, church of . . 691
Kingsborough, manor of . 145
Kingsdown, parish of . 63, 422
————, manor of . . 64
————, church of, and monuments in . . . 65, 429
Kirkby court, mansion of . 431
Kippington, seat of . . 573
Knight's farm . . . 264
Knowle manor, account of, 563, 565

Lambard, Thomas, esq. . 362
————, William . . 705
Lamienbey, seat of . . 534
Langridge, manor of . . 274
Langley park, seat of . . 620
Latimer, family of . . . 420
Lee, parish of . . . 639
—— place, seat of . . 642
——, church of, and monuments in 643
Leger, St., family of . . 126
Legge, family of . . . 633
Leicester, earl of . . . 260
————, countess of . . 371
Lennard, Sir Henry . . 581
Lesnes abbey . . . 467
Lethieullier, family of . . 372
Leveson, family of . . 275
Lewisham, parish of . . 629
————, manor of . . 631
————, church of, and monuments in . . . 637
Leybourne, Juliana de . . 14
Leysdown, parish of . . 149
————, two manors of . . ib.
————, church of . . 153
Lidgbird, John, esq. . . 645
Lidsing, manor of . . 365
Little and Lesnes, hundred of . 455
—— Delce, or Delce Parva, manor of . . . 343
Littlebrook, manor and hamlet of 385
Longfield, parish of . . 407
———— house . . 408
————, church of, and monuments in . . . ib.
Lovel, lord . . . 456
Lucies, borough of . . 30
Lucy, Sir William . . 28
——, Geoffrey de . . 463

page

Luddesdon, parish of . . 309
———, manor of . . 312
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 313
———, Reginald de . 312
Lullingstone, parish of . . 439
———, manor of . ib.
———— castle, manor of . 540
———, church of, and monuments in . . 440
Lushington, family of . 67, 88

Mackland, estate of . . . 3
Malavil, family of . . 543
Mallingden, manor of . . 192
Malmayns, manor of . . 184
Malmains, family of . 163, ib.
———, Nicholas . . 409
Maminot, Wakelin de . . 499
———, Gilbert de . . 731
Mandevil, family of . . 646
Mann, family of . . 57
Manns, estate of . . ib.
Maplescombe, manor of . 426
———, and ruins of chapel 423
March, Thomas . . 40
Marisco, Gilbert de . . 673
Marler, family of . . 475
Marsh green, district of . 613
Marshal's court, property of . 474
Mary's Hoo, St., parish of . 175
———, manor of . 176
Mascall mount, seat of . . 530
———, and Dale, seats of 532
———, vale of . . 531
Mayfield place, seat of . . 513
———, family of . . ib.
Meduana, Walter de . . 310
Meopham, parish of . . 305
———, manor of . . 307
———, church of, and memorials in . . . 309
Meves, family of . . 4
——— court, manor of . . ib.
———, estate of . 85
Meridale, Peter . . 5
Merston, parish of . . 216
———, or Green, manor of . 217
———, church of . . 218
Milsted, parish of . . 60
———, church of, and memorials in . . . 63
Milton, or Middleton, hundred of 1

page

Milton, or Middleton, parish of 93, 292
———, chesnut woods at . 97
———, oysters at . . ib.
——— barn . . . 98
———, church of, and memorials in . 107, 294, 298
———, place of . . 293
———, Penny's library . ib.
———, curious sun dial at . 295
Minster, parish of . . 123
———, or Sexbury, manor of . 125
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 130
Moated place, or Stone house, near Deptford . . 739
Modingham, hamlet of . . 644
Monesbye, John . . 296
Montchensie, family of . . 295
———, William de, 311, 393
Monteacuto, Drogo . . 690
Morant, family of . . 586
———'s court, manor of . ib.
Morden college . . 684
———, Sir John . . 682, 685
Morley, lord . . . 457
Morris court, manor of . . 72
Mortimer, family of . . 463
———, John . . 195
———, Roger lord . . 395
Mortimers, manor of . . 195
Mote, Little, and Petham court, manors of . . . 437
———— and Sibills . . 438
Mottingham, hamlet of . 660
Mount Pleasant, seat of . 537
Murston, parish of . . 82
———, church of . . 86
———, family of . . 84

Napleton, family of . . 41
Nashenden, manor of . 342
Neapoli, Gamerius de . . 74
Neats court, manor of . . 129
Newburgh, estate of . . 81
New Cross . . . 729
Newhall, or Borstall, manor of . 126
Newington, parish of . . 20
———, Roman road near . 22
———, manor of . . 25
———, church of, and memorials in . . . 35
Newlands, manor of . . 177
Nicholas, St., parish, Deptford . 739
———, church, Deptford 741

	page
Nightingale hall, seat of	645
Nockholt, parish of	505
———, church of, and inscriptions in	506
Norden, family of	3
Norsted, small manor of	509
Northfleet, parish of	277
———, manor of	279
——— Hythe, seat of	278
———, church of, and tombs in	283
Northwood Chastiners, or Norwood, manor of	101
———, eminent manor of	144
———, family of	145
———, John	87, 221
——— de	1
———, William	19
Norwood, family of	102
———, Stephen de	102
Nottingham, family of	62
———, Robert de	89
Nulcomb, estate of	561
Nursted court	302
———, church of, and monuments in	304
Nutsted, parish of	301
Nutts, or Notts, small manor of	151
Ockmem Lyng, St. Mary, manor of	516
Okely, Great and Little, manors of	204
———, Little, manor of	205
Old court, or Old house, mansion of	499
———, place of	701
Onslow, Denzil, esq.	517
Orkesdon, manor of	437
Orpington, parish of	511
———, manor of	ib.
———, church of, and monuments in	514
Osborne, family of	11
Otford, parish of	545
———, two battles fought at	546
———, Little, park of	548
———, church of, and monuments in	550
Otterham, manor of	16
Overneys green, manor of	591
Owlie, estate of	254
Owne, manor of	105
Paddock, or Parrocks, manor of	297
Page, Sir Gregory	683
Painters, house of	608
Park Place farm	659
Paul, St., parish, Deptford	739
———, church, Deptford	741
Pembroke, earl of	141, 413, 552
Pencester, Stephen de	363
Pery marsh, estate of	158
Petham, or Pedham place, manor of	434
Petley's place, farm of	496
Petts court, manor of	73
Peyforer, family of	154
Philippa, queen of Edward III.	1
Pimpe, family of	179
Pine, De la, family of	66
Pitstock, small manor of	52
Plaisance, manor of	709
Plantagenet, earls of Kent	478
Plumsted, parish of	457
——— park, farm of	460
———, church of, and monuments in	ib.
Pole, or Pool, manor of	404
——, William de la, duke of Suffolk	733
Polhill, family of	549
———, David, esq.	585
Pope, family of	9
——'s hall, estate of	ib.
Population of Kent, returns made of the	750
Port, Hugh de	83
——, Adam de	472
Portbridge, manor of	447
Potts, Cuthbert, esq.	534
Poyntz, Hugo de	540
Preston, manor of	ib.
Priors hall	193
Pullocil, Sir Thomas	525
Queen Henrietta Maria	129
Queenborough, parish of	136
———, castle of	ib.
———, borough and town of	ib.
——— church	140
Queen's court, or Benengrave farm	6
Quintin farm	96
Radfield, hamlet of	73
Rainham, parish of	2

page

Rainham, street, Lower, hamlet of 3
———, church of, and monuments in 7
Randall, manors of . . . 219
———, or Raundall, and Rundall, manor of . . 222
Ranscombe, farm of . . 264
Ravensborne, river of . . 489
Raynehurst and Tymberwood, two manors of . . 212
Read court, estate of . . 226
Religious establishments in Kent, account of . . . 762
Reynolds place, seat of . 431
———, family of . . ib.
Richmond, lands of . . 478
———, duke of . . 207
Ridley, parish of . . 415
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 416
Rikhill, Sir William . . ib.
Rochester, city and liberty of . 315
———, bridge of wood at . 316
——— bridge chamber . 317
——— under the Danes . 318
———, royal visitors at . 319
———, charters and privileges of . . . 320
———, castle of . . 321
———, towers of - 323
———, constable of - 326
———, under the Romans . 322
———, see of - - 328
——— cathedral, description of - - - - 331
———, priory of - - 333
———, diocese of - - 335
———, oyster fishery at - 336
———, town hall at - - 337
———, Troy town at - 338
———, St. Catherine's hospital at - - - ib.
——— Clement's parish at - - - - 339
——— Mary, parish of - 340
——— Nicholas, parish of - - - - ib.
——— Margaret's, parish of - - - 342, 344
——— manor, Ambree manerium - - - 341
———, Bully hill - - ib.
———, church of - - 344

page

Rochester, viscount - - 344
———, earl of - - 345
———, priory of - - 365
Rodmersham, parish of - - 65
———, manor of - 66
———, church of, and monuments in - - 68
Rokesley, or Ruxley, hundred of - - - 477
Rokesle, family of - 411, 516
———, Malgerius de - 527
Roman road, remains of - 219
——— station near Sittingbourne 88
Roper, family of - - 188, 655
Ros, Lora de, lady - - 458
Room house, mansion of - 357
Rosiers, small manor of - 40
———, family of - - ib.
Rothele, Roger - - 376
Rowehill, manor of - - 453
Rushy green, hamlet of - 630
Rushindon, manor of - - 127
Ruxley, manor of - - 527
Rye house, estate of - - 549

Sackville, family of - - 567
Salisbury, earl of - 222, 311
Sandys, Jordan, esq. - - 497
Sanderson, Sir William - 703
Satis, seat of - - - 341
Savage, family of, 71, 85, 105, 109
Saye, family of - 732, 365
——, William de - 492, 499, 732
——'s court, manor of - - 734
———, mansion of - ib.
Scadbury, manor of - - 480
Scotgrove, estate of - - 421
Scott, John, esq. - - 485
——, lady Mary - - 535
Seale, parish of - - 557
——, manor of - - - 558
——, church of, and monuments in - - - - 561
Sedley, family of - - 403
Selsey, lord - - - 105
Selyard, Sir Thomas - - 405
Sepham, estate of - - 541
———, eminent family of - ib.
Sergeants Otford, manor of - 548
Settington, manor of - - 357
Septvans, family of . . 308
Sevenoak, formerly a manor . 31
———, parish of . . 561
———, town of . . 562

page

Sevenoak, Sir William de . 562
———, hospital at . . ib.
———, vine at . . ib.
———, Roman station at . 563
———, manor of . . ib.
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 578
Seyliard, Sir Thomas . . 601
Seymour lord . . . 128
Shamel, hundred of . . 187
Sharnden, manor of . . 612
Sharsted, manor of . . 356
———, family of . . 365
———, Fulco de . . 356
Shaw, family of . . 653
Sheerness, ville of . 123, 131
———, fort of . . 133
——— dockyard . . 134
———, dreadful fire at . 135
———, steam packets at . ib.
———, market at . . 136
———, chapel at . . ib.
Sydney, baron . . . 481
Shelle, family of . . 505
Shelleys, manor of . . ib.
Sheppey, island of . . 117
———, circumference of . ib.
———, king's ferry in . 119
———, court of hustings at . 120
———, curious plants in . 121
———, countess of . 122, 502
——— under the Danes . 122
———, tumuli at . . ib.
———, John de . . ib.
———, monstrous fish at . 124
———, monastery at . ib,
Shepey, Jordan de . . 144
Shooter's hill . . . 644
Shoreham, parish of . . 539
———, manor of . . 540
———, or Lullingstone castle ib.
——— castle in ruins . 541
———, deanery of . . 335
———, church of, and memorials in . . . 542
Shorne, parish of . . 219
——— Ridgway, hamlet of . ib.
———, Ifield, and Thony, hamlets of . . . ib.
——— Mead, battery of . 220
———, church of, and memorials in . . . 224
Shurland, family of . . 51
———, Jeffrey de . . 141

page

Sidcup, hamlet of . . 525
Silham, or Sileham court, manor of 5
Simpsons, estate of . . 626
Sittingbourne, parish of . 86
———, town of . . 87
———, church of, and memorials in . . 92
Snodhurst, manor of . . 356
Socage tenures, account of . 755
——— of gavelkind . 756
Solefield, Sarcophagus found at 401
Somers, family of . . 177
South court, manor of . . 436
Southall, manor of . . 672
Southend, hamlet of . . 660
Southfleet, parish of . . 399
———, Roman milliare discovered at . . . 400
———, manor of . . 402
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 406
Speke, Sir Thomas . . 648
Spinner, John . . . 269
Squerie, family of . . 606
Squerries, manor of . . ib.
Stangrave, or Eaton bridge, manor of 611
———, farm of . . 612
Stanhill, manor of . . 454
Stanhope, family of . . 516
———, earl of . . 591
Stedalls, estate of . . 576
Stoke, parish of . . 181
——, church of, and monuments in . . . 186
Stokes, Hugo de . . 183
Stone, parish of . . 382
———, stratas of shells at . 383
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 389
——— castle . . . 386
——— place, estate of . . 388
Stonepit, seat of . . 560
Stray, water of . . . 160
Strood, parish of . . 257
———, or Temple, manor of . 259
———, hospital of . . 261
———, church of, and memorials in . . . 263
Sudtone, Levenot de . . 369
Suffolk Place farm . . 460
Sundridge, parish of . . 588
———, manor of . . 625

page

Sundridge, church of, and monuments in . . . 597
Sutton Barne, manor of . 37
———, manor of . . . 369
——— place . . . 373
——— at Hone, church of, and monuments in . . 377
———, parish of . 368
Swamp, fort of . . . 227
Swanley, hamlet of . . 376
Swanscombe, parish of . . 390
———, church of, and memorials in . . . 398
Swanton court, manor of . 56

Temple, manor of . . 445
Teynham, lord . . 82, 185
Thanet, earl of . . 6, 15
Theobald, Lewis, poet, born at Sittingbourne . . 88
Thornden, estate of . . 234
Tong, castle of . . 76
Toes, Upper, manor of . . 113
——, Nether, estate of . . ib.
Toltingtrow, hundred of . 277
Tong, parish of . . . 76
——, family of . . . 78
——, church of . . 82
Topographical and antiquarian works relating to the history of Kent . . . 774
Tracies, manor house of . 21
——, estate of . . 32
Tracy, family of . . ib.
Trowmers, estate of . . 495
Tuders, manor of . . 183
Tufton, Sir Benedict . 106
——— John . . 112
Tunbridge, Gilbert de . . 215
Tundall, manor of . . 362
Tunstall, parish of . . 42
——— house, seat of . 53
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 54
Twitham, family of . . 308

Ufton, manor of . . 51
Upbury, manor of . . 364
Upchurch, parish of . . 13
——— church and monuments in . . . 17
Upnor castle . . . 227
Upton, manor of . . 43

page

Valoigns, William de . . 427
Valomis, De, family of . 607
Vesci, family of . . 647
Vielston, family of . . 541

Wadeslade, manor of . . 355
Wainscott, or Parlabiens Yoke, manor of . . . 233
———, manor of . . 226
Waldens, manor of . . 518
Walker, Weldon, esq. . . 341
Wall End farm . . . 163
Warden, parish of . . 147
———, village of . . ib.
———, church of . . 148
Warderoba, Thomas de . 523
Watts, Richard, esq. . . 341
Well Hall farm . . 658
Weald, the, account of . 746
Welling, hamlet of . . 456
Westbrooke, family of . . 34
West court, manor of . 361
—— street, village of . 189
Westcombe, manor of . 704
Westerham, parish of . 603
——— and Eaton bridge, hundred of . . . ib.
———, church of, and memorials in . . . 608
Wheatley, William . . 465
Whorne, William . . 266
———'s place, mansion of . 264
Wicham, manor of . . 267
Wickham, village of . . 455
———, East . . ib.
———, manor of . 456
———, church of, and monuments in . . 457
———, West . . 486
———, church of, and monuments in . . 488
Wilderness, seat of . . 559
Wilmington, parish of . 451
———common . . 452
———, church of, and memorials in . . . 454
Wiltshire, earl of . . 418
Windhill, manor of . . 179
Withred, king of Kent . . 70
Wombwell hall, manor of . 280
———, family of . . 281
———, Thomas . . 280
Wood street, hamlet of . . 41
——— house . . 69

	page
Woodland, parish of	597
———, manor of	428
———s, seat of	680
Woolwich, parish of	667
———, town of	668
———, royal dock at	ib.
——— arsenal at	ib.
———, ordnance office at	ib.
———, laboratory at	669
———, military academy at	ib.
——— hospital at	671
———, artillery barracks at	670
———, gravel pits at	672
———, manor of	ib.
———, church of	675
Worcester, earl of	28
Wornedale, manor of	33
———, family of	ib.
Wotton, lord	279
Wrens, estate of	41
Wricklesmarsh, manor of	682
Yantlet creek	160
Yoke, the, or North Yoke, manor of	261
York, duke of	79, 707
Youling, old custom of	487
Zouch, family of	436

FINIS.

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ERRATA.

VOL. I.

page	*line*	
86	21	for her, read his.
93	20	for Western division, or West Kent, read Eastern, or East Kent.
94	5	read Westerham.
97	5	for Elcham, read Eleham.
98	6	for Bide, read Lydd
101	21	for at Bexley, read at Boxley, near Maidstone.
ib.	ib.	insert and at Dartford gunpowder and paper mills.
103	23	for Beyham, read Bayham abbey.
ib.	ib.	read Yalding.
105	30	the Ravensborne does not flow to Lee, Lee boundary being some distance eastward.
106	4	for Sandwich, read Sundridge.
107	38	for Bifures, read Bifrons.
110	1	read Fair-lawn.
ib.	ib.	for Sandwich upland, read Sundridge upland.
387	7	read Westgate hundred is south-eastward of Whitstaple hundred.
406	7	read Blengate hundred is north-eastward to that of Westgate.
450	21	for Charham, read Chartham.
538	12	read Ossunden grange, a mile south-eastward from Manston court.
559	1	for northern, read southern.
566	20	for southern, read the northern boundary.
589	6	Bonnington in the south-west.
592	8	south-east.
ib.	13	southwestern boundary.
597	14	Wimlingswold is next to Nonnington, south-westward.
640	6	south-west.
646	13	Ripple is the next parish north-east from Sutton.
ib.	19	Ripple court, distant three quarters of a mile.

VOL. II.

page	*line*	
97	23	Shebbertswold, two miles south-east from Barham downs.
122	25	Ewell is three miles north-west from Dover.
ib.	34	eastern boundary.
142	11	Buckland is the next parish north-east from Hougham.
154	22	northeastward is Woolverton and Chilton.
158	13	Capell parish lies south from Alkham.
184	7	Newington is the next parish northwestward from Cheriton.
194	32	Stelling is southward of Upper Hardres.
210	1	hundred of Heane (and not parish), in a western direction to that of Folkestone, not eastern.
ib.	9	Postling is westward from Newington.
241	27	Blackmanstone, westward from Orgarswike.
252	11	Bellaview, a mile northwestward from Lymne church.
328	1	Old Romney is the next parish northward from Lydd.
340	6	Benenden is the next parish north-east from Hawkhurst.
344	8	for Madwell, read Kadwell; and for Keinsham, line 7, for of residing at the above place, read he dwelt at a seat called the Gatehouse.
348	24	three miles southeastward from Tenterden town is Reading street.
362	1	Staplehurst village is nine miles south-south-east of Maidstone.
377	34	Kennington, Hinxhill, Willesborough, Sevington, Kingsnoth, and Mersham, parishes, are in the hundred of Chart and Longbridge, instead of the hundred of Blackborne.
380	10	Hinxhill is the next parish east-south-east from Kennington.
408	11	Wye is the next parish southeastward from Challock.
419	10	Brooke is the next parish southeastward from Wye.
420	20	Boughton Aluph parish lies eight miles from Faversham, ten miles from Canterbury, and three from Ashford.
442	18	Elmstead is the next parish northeastward from Hastingligh.
ib.	31	at the northern bounds lie Botsham and Holt.
457	16	Bishopborne parish is four miles sontheastward from Canterbury.
475	1	the hundred of Bridge and Petham lies south-west from that of Downhamford.
479	19	Bridge parish, two miles and a half east-south-east from Canterbury.
481	24	Nackington is the next parish westward from Bridge.
ib.	28	Nackington lies a mile south-south-east from Canterbury.
487	27	Upper Hardres is the next parish southward from Lower Hardres.
490	12	Petham is the next parish westward from Upper Hardres.
ib.	39	northwestward from the village is the seat of Kenfield.
498	1	the hundred of Downhamford lies southward from that of Blengate.

page	*line*	
498	13	Stodmarsh lies westward from Preston.
499	31	Littleborne is the next parish adjoining Stodmarsh, to the south-west.
506	9	the parish of Ickham adjoins Wickham, to the south-east.
515	1	the hundred of Preston lies south-east from that of Blengate.
520	22	the hundred of Felborough joins Faversham hundred to the east-south-east.
ib.	26	Chilham parish lies six miles west-south-west of Canterbury.
521	6	Chilham village is eight miles from Canterbury.
526	31	the manor of Youngs is a mile south-west from the church.
585	1	the hundred of Faversham lies next eastward from that of Teynham, Middleton hundred being west from that of Teynham.
615	33	Norton lies on the south side of the London road.
619	16	Newnham is the next parish to Norton, south-southwestward.
623	10	Easling is situated five miles southwestward of Faversham.
625	15	the manor of Huntingfield is in the southeastern part of Easling.
631	17	Stalisfield adjoins the parish of Easling to the south.
645	24	Badlesmere, the northern boundary, lies four miles from Faversham.
652	23	Sheldwich parish and the church are distant three miles from Faversham.
694	8	Teynham is the next parish northeastward from Bapchild.

VOL. III.

8	28	Boughton Monchensie lies north-west from Hedcorne, the southern portions of Chart Sutton, and Sutton Valence, intervening.
48	33	Chilton manor lies at the north-east boundary of Boughton Malherbe.
83	3	Greenaway court lies a mile southeastward from Hollingborne church.
90	15	Leeds church is northeastward of Leeds street.
106	13	the high road from Ashford and Lenham, to Maidstone, runs along the southern part of Bersted, near half a mile south of Bersted green.
114	2	in the northwestern part of Thurnham lies Binbury wood.
120	38	Otterden lies the next parish northeastward from Lenham.
154	1	the hundred of Calehill (and not parish), lies westward from that of Wye, and not to the south.
189	20	Roting manor lying on the eastern confines of Pluckley parish.
196	32	the parish of Marden averaging two miles and a half broad.
217	1	the hundred of Brenchley and Horsemonden lies next eastward from that of Wachlingstone.

line	*page*	
236	14	Horsemonden is the next parish northeastward from Lamberhurst.
244	1	Barkley hundred lies next eastward from that of Cranbrooke, and north-east from Cranbrooke parish.
ib.	9	Biddenden is the next parish south-east from Frittenden.
260	6	the hundred of Eastry lies next north to that of Bewsborough.
268	18	Waldershare parish is south of Betshanger, part of Tilmanstone intervening.
273	11	Apulton is separated from the other part of Waldershare, by portions of West Langdon, Sutton, and Little Mongeham, intervening, and none of Norborne parish.
ib.	12	Apulton lies eastward from the rest of Waldershare.
280	14	for Lamberhurst, read Eythorne parish.
ib.	18	Barfristone is the next parish westward from Eythorne.
290	8	Knowlton lies next northwestward from Tilmanstone.
330	10	Frant.
403	27	Chiddingstone lies northeastward from Cowden.
436	22	Lyghe is the next north-east from Penshurst.
441	22	Speldhurst is the last parish to be described in this hundred, and not lath.
456	1	the hundred of Twyford lies southeastward from that of Littlefield.
489	20	Yalding parish lies southwestward from Hunton.
501	37	on the western side of West Peckham runs the stream from Plaxtool.
547	1	the hundred of Larkfield lies next north-west from that of Maidstone.
577	13	instead of Sir Jacob Astley, of Merton, constable in Norfolk, read Sir Jacob Astley, of Melton Constable, in Norfolk.
594	10	southwestward from Birling lies Ryarsh.
597	8	under the head Ryarsh, for diocese of Canterbury, read diocese of Rochester.
ib.	12	speaking of the vicarage of Ryarsh, instead of £40, according to the return made in Parliament in 1821, it is worth £125 per annum.
602	32	southeastward from Leyborne lies East Malling.
603	4	northeastward to the river Medway.
604	26	for the year 1726, read 1576.
614	6	for or two bends, read bendlets.
620	28	the church and ancient palace a quarter of a mile northeastward.
623	1	Maidstone hundred is next to that of Chatham, south-southwest.
ib.	13	south-south-west from Gillingham is Maidstone parish.
627	34	one of the fairs at Maidstone is on the 17th of October, and not the 27th.
634	11	the Mote seat is situated a mile east-south-east from Maidstone town.

page	*line*	
637		under the view of the Mote, the seat of earl Romney, the words "lord lieutenant of the county" should be omitted, the Marquis Camden holding that office.
647		Maidstone jail should be described as presenting a quadrangle, or the radius of a circle: the front is adorned with Doric pillars, and in the court room there are several paintings.
651	8	about a mile westward (not eastward) from the village is Boxley abbey.
675	29	Pimps court is situated at the eastern extremity, near Loose.
684	38	East and West Barming.
692	20	for the 5th, read the 1st of August, 1799.

VOL. IV.

36	22	Borden is the next parish south from Newington.
37	11	westward from Hode street are the chesnut woods.
43	36	Ufton manor.
60	6	Milsted is the next parish south-south-east from Bredgar.
65	36	Rodmersham lies northward from Kingsdown.
69	16	Bapchild stands forty-one miles from London.
108	10	Bobbing lies the next parish west-south-west from Milton.
147	8	Warden lies the next parish northeastward from East Church.
153	27	a small tract of land on the north-east side of Elmley isle, is in the parish of East Church.
155	22	Harty island is southward, opposite Leysdown.
164	25	the entrance to the isle of Graine is on the southwestern part.
ib.	27	the church of St. James's is situated at the north-east extremity.
167	20	for Stone, read Stoke in part.
208	28	Chalk parish is situated twenty-three miles from London.
219	4	eastward of the high road are the hamlets of Lower Shorne and Shorne green.
ib.	22	Shorne, Ifield, and Thong.
ib.	25	southeastward from the church is Shorne Ridgeway.
236	29	at the north-west boundary is the manor of Henhurst.
239	15	Historians have been led into an error respecting the sum expended by the late earl of Darnley on the Mausoleum at Cobham, which the present noble possessor informed the editor did not amount to £10,000, being one third of the disbursement uniformly supposed to have been incurred in erecting the edifice in question.
250	22	The eldest son of earl Darnley bears the title of Clifton; the second and only surviving younger son is named John; of the two daughters, who lived to grow up, only the lady Elizabeth survives: the elder, lady Mary, who espoused M Brownlow, had been dead some years.

page	line	
254	19	The estate of Owlets, and the manor of Joskins, are both the property of Henry Edmeades, esq., who has held them between thirty and forty years.
264	28	the river Medway being the eastern boundary of Cuxton parish, not northern.
277	10	Nursted.
282	9	Ifield court is situated at the south-east boundary of Northfleet parish.
284	18	Gravesend is situated seven miles from Rochester.
299	4	The soil in Ifield parish is not poor and chalky, but strong wheat land throughout, and in a fine state of cultivation.
301	2	Heaver court is now the property of J. Edmeads, esq., who has considerably improved both the village and the church.
301	6	from the bottom of the page, Nursted parish, instead of 1000, does not contain above 700 acres, as, in the former estimate, are calculated several interjacent lands, which, in reality, belong to Northfleet.
ib.	6	Ifield church, by no means the smallest in the diocese, several others not containing more than two-thirds of the number of persons.
301	31	Nursted joins the southern boundary of Northfleet parish, not eastern.
304	3	speaking of the court house, Nursted, for manor, read manor house.
354	4	John, the present earl of Chatham, the Hon. William Pitt, (brother of the earl) now deceased, was privy counsellor and chancellor of the Exchequer, &c.
439	7	now the property of Sir Thomas Dyke, son of Sir John.
455	31	a mile south of Bostal heath is a modern-built house.
456	13	late residence of Mr. Benjamin Winckworth, now of the Rev. Stephen Tucker.
470	23	Crayford fair is held on the 25th of August.
474	21	Howbery is a manor in the north-east part of Crayford parish.
475	1	to Harman Berens, esq. of Kevington, not Kenington.
477	27	northeastward from Chesilhurst village and church is place green.
484	30	the church on the eastern side.
487	4	and in the following pages, for Sir Peter Burnell, read Sir Peter Burrell.
498	34	100 rods from the southwestern part of Chelsfield parish.
ib.	ib.	Cudham village and church lie two miles west of the London road, through Farnborough, to Sevenoak.
515	26	near the eastern banks of the river Cray is the populous village of St. Mary Cray.
519	35	St. Paul's Cray is the next parish northward from St. Mary Cray, and not southward.
524	10	Brockley, in Lewisham, not Deptford.

page	*line*	
526	20	for Sidcup, read parish of Foot's Cray.
ib.	39	the Cray takes its source on the western (not eastern) side of North Cray parish.
532	13	for Welling, read Walling.
ib.	23	the London road at Bexley heath does not lead through the village of Bexley; the road on Bexley heath being some distance north of the village and church.
535	11	Blendon hall stands in the hamlet of Blendon, and not in Brigden.
539	21	in the eastern boundary is the hamlet of Romney street, not Westerham.
543	12	a mile eastward of the high London road.
ib.	15	the hamlet called Pratt's Bottom is in Chelsfield parish.
558	5	near the western boundary is the village of Seale, and not eastern.
ib.	6	on the eastern side is the hamlet called Seale Chart, and not western.
ib.	8	a mile eastward is the seat of Stonepit, and not northward.
561	34	Sevenoaks is the next parish southwestward from Seale.
562	11	the town of Sevenoaks lies little more than twenty-three miles from London, and not thirty-three miles.
563	9	eastward is the dwelling and park of Knowle.
ib.	10	westward of Knowle is Kippington.
ib.	15	where the road from London, and that from Westerham, meet, is the hamlet of Riverhead.
566		under the view of Knowle park, for the seat of the duchess of Dorset, read the seat of the earl of Plymouth.
571	6	from the bottom, the late duke of Dorset, by Arabella Diana, daughter of Sir Jonathan Cope, had two daughters, instead of several; the eldest is married to earl Plymouth, and the other to earl Delaware.
571		add at the bottom of the page, George John Frederick, fourth duke of Dorset, was born in November, 1790, who dying the 22d of February, 1815, by a fall from his horse, at Killaney, near Dublin, was succeeded by Charles Sackville Germain, the present and fifth duke of Dorset, and third viscount Sackville.
583	5	from the bottom, earl Stanhope had first, by Hester, daughter of lord Chatham, three daughters; first, Hester Lucy; second, Griselda, married to Mr. Jekell; third, Lucy Rachael, married to Mr. Taylor: second, by Louisa, daughter of Henry Grenville, esq., had three sons only.—*See page* 584.
586	4	the estate was alienated to David Polhill, esq., (insert) "eldest son of Thomas Polhill, esq., of Otford," who had sold the same to Sir Nicholas Strode.
ib.	16	Charles Polhill, esq, by Patience Haswell, had six sons and one daughter.
598	14	at a small distance northward of the village the river Darent flows.

page	*line*	
603	19	Westerham extends to the chalk hills, northward, where it bounds to Cudham, not Cowden.
616	28	northeastward is Beckenham place and park.
620	11	for the surname of Burnell, read Burrell.
629	8	for Leigh, read Lee.
635	20	the market discontinued, but not the fairs.
642	22	Lee place is now pulled down.
ib.	33	Sir Thomas Fludyer died in 1762, not in 1769.
643	9	the old church at Lee was pulled down and rebuilt in 1813.
663	29	George III. born the 4th of June, 1738, not May 24.
678	1	Charlton house, late the residence of Dame Jane Wilson, now inhabited by, and the property of, her grandson, Sir Thomas Maryon Wilson, bart., and not of Robert Foote, esq., he having resided several years past at Charlton place, occupied previously by the earl of Cholmondley, now the residence of John Balfour, esq.
679	15	the account of the fair in this and following pages is incorrect, as regards this period, there being no marching, &c., in the neighbouring towns.
ib.	34	the preaching a sermon at Charlton church on the fair-day is discontinued.
682	4	Jane, not Margaretta Elizabeth, the wife of Sir Thomas Spencer Wilson, bart.
684	9	the mansion was pulled down shortly after the sale, but the park was not sold in portions, as is stated; it is still the property of John Cator, esq., (who has lately built, for the accommodation of his numerous tenants, a handsome church, near the site of the old mansion,) he having let the park off in portions, on long leases.
692	1	the church of Kidbroke is not annexed to, by composition, to that of Charlton, both being separate districts.
693	17	Greenwich fair is not kept in the park, but in the town, near the mouth of the river Ravensborne.
694	27	Blackheath is five miles from the metropolis, and not seven miles.
695	21	Blackheath hill, and not Deptford hill, being both in Greenwich and Lewisham parishes.
721	30	not sixteen ounce loaf weekly, but a pound loaf per day; also coffee and cocoa, mornings and evenings.
726	5	the new church there adverted to is the building erected at the extremity of Blackheath, in Charlton parish.
730	32	for Deptford hill, read Blackheath hill.